

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING DALE FISSELER, THE NEW CITY MANAGER FOR THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dale Fisseler on obtaining the position of City Manager for the City of Fort Worth. Mr. Fisseler was recently promoted from his previous position with the City of Fort Worth as Assistant City Manager and will now be taking over the reins as City Manager of the fifth largest city in Texas.

Mr. Fisseler has been working for the City of Fort Worth since 1990, where he started as a Water Superintendent. In 1999, he was named Director of the City of Fort Worth's Water Department, which provides water to almost 1 million people throughout Fort Worth and Tarrant County.

Many local officials agree that Mr. Fisseler is most deserving of this position. Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief supported this notion by stating that "obviously Mr. Fisseler is familiar with our city's history, challenges and opportunities. We are very pleased that the best person for the job was already a member of our Fort Worth family."

It with great honor that I congratulate Dale Fisseler on this deserving opportunity and wish him the best in his future endeavors. The North Texas region is truly fortunate to have the type of dedicated public servant that Dale Fisseler personifies, and I wish him every success during his tenure as the City Manager of Fort Worth.

HONORING MARSHALL HENTHORNE, NICK NULL, JEFFERY SHOWALTER, AND MARK STRICKLAND FOR THEIR HEROIC EFFORTS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Marshall Henthorne, Nick Null, Jeffery Showalter, and Mark Strickland for their heroic efforts in responding to a tractor-trailer accident.

On December 10, 2007 a tractor trailer flipped over the side of the Interstate 64 Bridge in Charleston, West Virginia and fell 80 feet into the Kanawha River. The two men in the tractor trailer were submerged in the cold waters of the Kanawha River and trapped in the cab for nearly 20 minutes.

Corporal Nick Null of the Charleston Police Department was the first on the scene to aid the rescue efforts. Lieutenant Mark Strickland of the Charleston Police Department and fire-

fighters Jeffery Showalter and Marshall Henthorne of the Charleston Fire Department all worked to cut the top of the cab to get the two men, Huseen Awad, and Phillip Chaizoi, 57 of Columbus, Ohio to safety.

These four men demonstrated courage and selflessness and in diving into the cold, swift, current of the Kanawha River to save the lives of these two men. Both men were rushed to Charleston Area Medical Center and sent to the intensive care unit where Chaizoi was listed under evaluation and Awad later perished.

I am proud to honor Marshall Henthorne, Nick Null, Jeffery Showalter, and Mark Strickland as hometown heroes and I'm proud to call them fellow, West Virginians.

IN HONOR OF PEARL CAREY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and community servant, Pearl Carey, for her lifetime of achievements and service above self. Pearl is a long time resident of the Monterey Peninsula. All of us who have had the good fortune over the years to befriend her, know that Pearl has been one of the busiest people on the Monterey Peninsula—a true divine spark who has helped to light the way for all.

Pearl grew up in Oklahoma, her girlhood ambition was to become a Christian missionary in Africa. She never realized that dream, but instead devoted much of her adult life to helping improve the lives of those around her, particularly children. She worked with the local YMCA, Salvation Army, Community Theater of Carmel, the National Council of Negro Women and the United Fund. Working with children has been one of her primary passions. "I just love kids," is her simple explanation. She was the employment interviewer in the Neighborhood Youth Corps and Job Corps, worked with Head Start, owned and operated a child care center, was the CETA coordinator in the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, and is a life member of the PTA.

The list of Pearl's general community activities is also long. She was a member of the National Council of Negro Women, an advisory member of the Welfare Rights Organization, volunteered at Eskaton Hospital, a board member of Turning Point Prison Mother Program, and chaired the Seaside Community Heart Fund. Her political involvement included stints as the minority coordinator for California Governor Jerry Brown's 1968 campaign, screening co-chairperson for George McGovern's California primary campaign, co-chair of the Northern California Black Caucus and the State Affirmative Action Committee, and delegate to the 1972 Democratic convention.

On top of all of her public service activities, Pearl has also been a local, regional, and

even national leader in the golf community. Golf has always held an attraction for Pearl, but as a youth, few if any opportunities to play were available for an African American woman. When her military husband was stationed on the Monterey Peninsula, Pearl decided to take lessons and realize her ambition. She quickly expanded her golf game beyond the occasional game. Over the years, she has served as president of the Pacific Women's Golf Association, president and treasurer of the Western States Golf Association, president of the Seaside Women's Golf Club, and founder and director of the Seaside Junior Golf Program. She received the Joe Dey Award from the USGA, California Golf Writers Award, and Northern California Golf Association Golden State Award, honoring her for her activities. Today, Carey is involved with the First Tee of Monterey County, along with her duties at the Seaside Junior Golf Program, board of directors for the AT&T Junior Golf Association, and as the treasurer of the Western States Golf Association.

Madam Speaker, the list goes on and on, and we cannot hope to list all of her many activities throughout her life. Most people would be happy with a fraction of her accomplishments. On February 9, 2008, Pearl will receive another honor in Monterey, the NAACP President's Award. No better choice could have been made than Pearl Morris Carey. I know my fellow members join me in congratulating her upon this well-deserved tribute.

CALLING FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE CURRENT ELECTORAL CRISIS IN KENYA

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for H. Con. Res. 283, the calling for a peaceful resolution to the current electoral crisis in Kenya.

I applaud the people of Kenya for pursuing their right to democracy. Democracy is a fundamental right to be shared by all. Voting is at the core of a democratic society and conveys the will of the people. I encourage the Kenyan government to work diligently and quickly to restore order to their nation. Violence should not be used as a means by which to achieve political objectives.

After the devastating bombing of the U.S. embassies in 1998, Kenya became a crucial ally in the global war against terrorism. Thus, the welfare and stability of the Kenyan people is of concern to the United States. I am hopeful the leadership and strength that prevailed during that crisis will rise and put an end to the current devastating violence.

I encourage the Kenyan leaders on all sides to welcome the U.N. human rights teams to investigate the violent acts that have destroyed

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the confidence of the citizens of Kenya. In doing so, the government can slowly start to rebuild the trust of its citizens.

Therefore, I urge Kenyan officials to do everything humanly possible to end the unprecedented bloodshed and violence. It is unsettling to hear that over 1,000 people have lost their lives and more than 300,000 have been displaced.

Kenya was hailed as a great example of democracy for other African nations to emulate. I look forward to the day when Kenya returns to its pursuit of democracy.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I applaud the Kenyan people for standing up for democracy and their right to a democratic government.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 29 H. Res. 867—Commending the Houston Dynamo soccer team for winning the 2007 Major League Soccer Cup, I was attending a funeral for a soldier killed in Iraq.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

CALLING FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE CURRENT ELECTORAL CRISIS IN KENYA

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize House Concurrent Resolution 283, calling for a peaceful resolution to the current electoral crisis in Kenya.

As a result of the elections held on December 27, 2007 chaos has erupted in Kenya. It was suspected that the administration police were used to rig elections in favor of Part of National Unity aligned to President Kibaki. During the announcement of the results from different polling stations, it was discovered that there were serious inconsistencies between results released at the polling stations and those that were announced by Electoral Commission of Kenya.

Since then, Kenya has been experiencing civil war and people are suffering. As the people of Kenya face ongoing violence, they stay strong in proclaiming, through electoral process, their country deserves a fair democracy. I praise the courage and commitment of the Kenyan citizens towards democracy. We must support their efforts towards liberty and justice by persuading the international community.

With passage of this legislation, the international community, United Nations aid organizations, and all neighboring countries are called upon to assist those affected by violence and asked to use diplomatic means to persuade relevant political actors to commit to a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

On behalf of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, I am honored to support passage of House Concurrent Resolution 283.

TORNADOS THAT AFFECTED ARKANSAS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to offer our thoughts and prayers to the victims of the recent tornados that have devastated many parts of Arkansas and the surrounding region. On behalf of the Congress I especially extend our sympathies to the families who have lost a loved one in this terrible tragedy.

As we move to rebuild our State, I commend all those who have reached out to their neighbors to provide assistance in this time of need. As families and businesses begin the cleanup process, I am committed to helping these individuals get the resources they need to rebuild their lives and communities.

Arkansans are great people who exemplify Southern hospitality and I have great faith our communities will persevere and prevail through this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Madam Speaker, on February 6, 2008, I missed rollcall votes 29–31. My flight from California to Washington, DC, did not get me back in time. Had I been here, I would have voted “yes” on all three votes.

Rollcall Vote 29: On Motion To Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 867, Commending the Houston Dynamo soccer team for winning the 2007 Major League Soccer Cup;

Rollcall Vote 30: On Motion To Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 942, Recognizing the significance of Black History Month; and

Rollcall Vote 31: On Motion To Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 943, Remembering the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster and honoring its crew members, who lost their lives on January 28, 1986.

CONGRATULATING LEE MYUNGBAK ON ELECTION TO PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2008

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I want to commend Mr. ROYCE on sponsoring H. Res. 947, a resolution congratulating Lee Myung-Bak on his election to the Presidency of the Republic of Korea and wishing him well during his transition and inauguration on February 25, 2008.

The United States and Korea share a long-standing and special relationship. Our strong alliance is rooted in the common principles of freedom and democracy. Today that relation-

ship has blossomed into a strong economic partnership in which the Republic of Korea has become one of the United States' major trading partners. In my State of California, Korea is the State's fifth largest trading partner and the Los Angeles Custom District's third largest trading partner, with \$18 billion in two-way trade annually.

In my congressional district in Los Angeles, Hollywood, and Culver City, ethnic Koreans have built a thriving business and cultural area known as Koreatown. Many maintain close cultural, business, and family ties to their homeland. Accordingly, it is my hope that the Republic of Korea will be fully admitted into the Visa Waiver Program in the very near future so that we may share even closer people-to-people exchanges between our two countries.

H. Res. 947 is also timely and important due to the ongoing Six-Party Talks and current attempts to dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapons program. President-elect Lee has pledged to make the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula a priority of his administration. In order to achieve the goal of a nuclear free Korean Peninsula, the Republic of Korea will need the full support of the United States.

Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Caucus of Korea and the U.S.-Korea Inter-Parliamentary Exchange and as a member of the House Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and Global Environment, I am committed to ensuring that the rock-solid U.S.-Korea alliance remains relevant, resilient, and enduring.

For these reasons, I again congratulate President-elect Lee on his electoral victory and am certain that I speak for all of my Congressional colleagues in wishing him the best.

IN MEMORY OF JUNE IMPSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember June Impson, longtime professor for Texas Women's University and beloved local artist to the citizens of North Texas.

Ms. Impson was on the faculty of the Texas Women's University Department of Family Sciences from 1976 until her retirement in 1998. During her career in academia, she continued to pursue art and was an active member of the Denton, Texas-based Visual Arts Society of Texas. She served as an officer in the society, and Ms. Impson also taught workshops and learned alongside her fellow members.

Ms. Impson was known for her paintings and collages of flowers, especially the wildflowers of Texas. “I love nature,” Ms. Impson once said. “All of it. Rocks, and dirt.”

Her work was described as “immediate, bold, and beautifully painted.” She was thought by many to be inspirational, gentle, imaginative, encouraging, and inclusive and she will be greatly missed in the art community as well as the North Texas and Texas Women's University communities.

She was so loved by the art community around her that the Visual Arts Society of Texas established a scholarship fund in Ms. Impson's name before her death.

I extended my thoughts to her husband, Billy Roy Switzer, and her two sons, Loren and Keiller, as well as a long list of family members and friends. June Impson will be greatly missed by the many that are fortunate enough to have known her, and I am certain that her artwork will continue to inspire others for years to come.

HONORING THE COPPELL FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, a golden anniversary is indeed a special milestone, and today I am proud to recognize the Coppel Fire Department's 50th anniversary. This exemplary and dedicated group of firefighters continues a proud 50-year long tradition of excellence.

As emergency responders for the City of Coppel, Texas, the Coppel Fire Department prides themselves on building a safe community through exceptional services. The Coppel Fire Department provides fire prevention, fire suppression, transport emergency medical services, and technical rescue to the City of Coppel and the North Texas Region. The Department also offers special community services such as a Smoke Detector Program, Fire Extinguisher Training, Fire Safety Training, CPR Training, and Child Safety Seat Installation, just to name a few.

The Coppel Fire Department includes 92 highly trained members operating from four facilities strategically located throughout the city. Each member is fully committed to continuing the traditions of providing a level of public service that is second to none.

Chief Kevin Richardson and his department will be celebrating the 50th anniversary all year long. In honor of the occasion, a special commemorative helmet shield has been designed, restoration of the department's first fire engine is complete, and a commemorative album will be used to honor the department's 50 years of service to the community.

The Coppel Fire Department's 50 years of hard work and commitment to the citizens of Coppel is worthy of recognition. I offer my sincere congratulations on their golden anniversary, and I am most honored to represent this outstanding department in the 24th District of Texas.

CONGRATULATING THE 2007 WEST VIRGINIA BOYS SOCCER STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2007 West Virginia Boys Soccer State Champions, the George Washington High School Patriots of Charleston, West Virginia.

The West Virginia State Tournament took place in Beckley on November 3, 2007. The Patriots played defending champions, Hurri-

cane High School in the final game of the tournament.

Head Coach Tom Hopper, who was named 2007 WV Soccer Coach of the Year and assistant coaches; Dave Nelson, Kevin Cushing, Dan Thistlethwaite and Gordon Green led the young men to victory winning overall 18-4-3 season. The Patriots made George Washington High School history, as the first soccer team to win a state championship.

The players include captains; Connell Green, Sam McElwee, Yale Tiley, and Zack Claudio and Tyler Chirtas, Adam Bolland, Jesse Dreyer, Christopher Power, Luca DiPiero, PJ Wolfe, Jake Stevens, Ian Thistlethwaite, Evan Loflin, Charlie McElwee, Andrew Robey, Kurt Suter, Thomas Edens, Blair Suter, Paul Stroebel, Shahir Amin, and Adeeb Derakhshan.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pride to acknowledge the George Washington High School Patriots as the 2007 West Virginia Boys Soccer State Champions. Again, congratulations to these talented young men.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH ST. CLAIR

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a man of action and principle, Mr. Joseph St. Clair. Joe and his wife, Maria, came to the United States from Hungary in 1939. When this country entered World War II he was required to take his family back to Hungary. As a civilian English and history teacher in German-occupied territory, he was assigned to monitor American prisoners of war. He refused to cooperate with the Germans and had to go into hiding. The 6-week long winter siege of Budapest by the U.S. was a particularly difficult time for his friends and family, living in a bomb shelter and coming out at night to butcher frozen horses to feed themselves. Living through these experiences shaped his character and priorities: devotion to family, service above self, and leadership.

After the war he was again in danger, this time from the Communist Party. As friends and colleagues disappeared, he realized that he needed to get his family out of Hungary. With the help of Americans, Joe was able to get them all to Switzerland, and eventually back to the United States. He changed his family name to St. Clair and moved to Monterey, where in 1948, he became the founding chairman of the Hungarian Department in the newly formed Army Language School, now known as the Defense Language Institute. In 1970 his department was given the Abraham Lincoln Award of the American Hungarian Studies Foundation because "... never before nor anywhere else in the world has the Hungarian language and culture been taught so effectively to so many students of non-Hungarian background as it has been by the Hungarian Department of DLIWC."

Joe and Maria met during their college days at the University of Budapest where he was the leader of the Catholic men's service organization, and she was the head of the Catholic women's organization. They had four sons, Joseph Jr., Akos, George, and Robert, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Joe spent many years as a Boy Scout leader and won special awards and citations from that organization.

Joe's life was one of service to his community. In addition to being his sons' scoutmaster, he was active in Kiwanis and the Knights of Columbus. At one time he held the record for donating more blood than anyone else on the Monterey Peninsula. After retirement he moved to Scotts Valley in Santa Cruz County. He volunteered with the Red Cross and became chairman of the board of directors of the California Gray Bears, a pioneering self-help organization of senior citizens. With the Gray Bears he harvested vegetables, distributed the food to home-bound seniors, and operated the largest recycling center in Santa Cruz County. For one of his awards, it was estimated that he had clocked over 10,000 hours of community service.

When Joe retired after 30 years at the Language School, he was given the Department of the Army's second highest civilian award for meritorious service. The wording on the citation in part sums up the man who was Joe St. Clair: "Mr. St. Clair understood the responsibility of the manager as being primarily one of leadership in the highest sense of the word. In whatever position or assignment he received, Joe St. Clair was invariably an enlightened guide, a relentless, demanding, but inspiring leader both to his students and his faculty."

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in honoring the life of this admirable man, and we are grateful that he chose to become a citizen of our country.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF SINGER, SONGWRITER, ACTIVIST, AND INSPIRER BOB MARLEY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in reverent celebration of the birthday of Robert Nesta Marley, a man whose musical genius provided the soundtrack to the politically awakening times of the '60s and '70s. Through song, he attempted to forge a new world order, infusing his calls for nonviolence, unity, and faith with an enthralling reggae beat that propelled the sound of Jamaica internationally.

On this day, the anniversary of his birth, the world rejoices in the myriad contributions his unique voice made to reggae music, to Rastafarian religion, to social justice and peace. He serves, still, as an ambassador for the Jamaican essence, personifying through his undying image and legacy the diverse people of that island and its rich culture.

His sound sprung from the slums of Kingston. But—surrounded by economic devastation, political violence, and the intolerance of his mixed-race heritage—he clung to optimism, instead. The sanguine anthems of "One Love" and "No Woman, No Cry" gave voice to the oppression of poverty and its effect on the human spirit, captivating a generation and spanning the globe in its power and scope.

For this, we honor him—stirred, touched, inspired by his cause.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 30, H. Res. 942—Recognizing the significance of Black History Month, I was attending a funeral for a soldier killed in Iraq.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Congressman AL GREEN's resolution to honor Black History Month.

As the brainchild of Carter G. Woodson, the celebration of the many contributions of African Americans to this Nation has evolved from its 1926 inception as Negro History Week, to what we now know as Black History Month. As apparent by the change in titles, the mentality of our nation towards race and race relations has made significant improvements with each generation.

Although African Americans were an integral part of the founding of this nation dating back to at least to the colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books. Prior to Woodson's vehement efforts to write African Americans into the history of the Nation, books largely ignored the African American population except to mention them in the context of slavery. That is why it is so important that the full history of African Americans continue to be preserved and taught so that future generations of all Americans will know our abundant heritage.

An ancient proverb states, "Who has no past, has no future." African Americans have made significant contributions to this nation's history, and we continue to build that rich legacy today. Because of the continued efforts of those who educate our schoolchildren, future generations will know about how a race of oppressed people overcame the social and political obstacles of slavery and Jim Crow to become great innovators, scientists, novelists, musicians, philosophers, and political leaders.

The inclusion of African Americans in academic curriculums ensures that children can continue to be inspired by Thurgood Marshall, Malcolm X, Mac Jamison, Benjamin Carson, Richard Wright, and Shirley Chisholm.

Black History Month has not only set a precedent by honoring the achievements of African Americans, but it has paved the way for other nationwide celebrations of the contributions of other races and cultures. Therefore, by supporting Congressman AL GREEN's Resolution to honor Black History Month, I also support the American idea of diversity and multiculturalism.

I commend Congressman GREEN for bringing this important resolution to the floor, and I strongly urge my colleagues' support.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF INDIANA REPRESENTATIVE
RICHARD MANGUS
OF
LAKEVILLE, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of distinguished former State Representative Richard Mangus. Mangus, age 77, suffered a heart attack Monday, February 4, 2008 and sadly passed away.

Mr. Mangus' career in public service began in 1972 upon his election to the Indiana General Assembly. After his initial term was complete, Mr. Mangus won 15 additional elections, serving a total of 32 years. A dairy farmer for 60 years, Mangus excelled in representing the agricultural community—he knew the farmers and the types of issues they faced, and he shared a great concern for the environment. During his time in office, Mangus served as Chairman of the House Election Committee, the House Environmental Committee, and the House Natural Resources Committee. Inside the Assembly, Mangus was known for his fiery spirit, his use of theatrics and drama to prove a point, and his no-nonsense wisdom. It has been said that Mangus did not speak often, but when he did, it deserved complete attention, for he was a true political genius.

Dick Mangus' illustrious career of service has been recognized by numerous honors and awards; in fact, he was a three-time winner of the Sagamore of the Wabash honor. He has been honored as both Police Legislator of the Year and Professional Firefighter Legislator of the Year; he received the District Soil and Water Conservation Special Recognition Award for Support of District Programming, as well as the 4-H Leadership 20 year Service Award, Izaak Walton League Environmental Achievement Award, and the award for the Junior Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen of the Year. Mangus was also appointed as a member of the Department of Natural Resources Commission.

Outside of his career in the state legislature, Dick Mangus served his country in the United States Army as well as owned and operated a successful family dairy farm. In 1951, he married his sweetheart, Mary, and they were together for 56 years. During this time, they raised five children: Marcia, Russell, Richard, Ronald, and Ryan. Mangus was a grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of ten.

Despite his claim to be "just a dairy farmer from Lakeville," Mangus will be remembered as much more. His legacy as a public servant will be defined by his passionate advocacy, creative methods, and humble approach. He will be dearly missed by his family, his constituents, and all Hoosiers. It is with great pride and honor that I enter former State Representative Richard Mangus' name into the United States CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HONORING LESTER RAY
WISEGERBER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the fine work and outstanding public service of my friend, Lester Ray Wisegerber. In 2004, Lester Ray Wisegerber became president of the Dayton Chamber of Commerce. He drew upon his diverse background to lead and represent the city of Dayton. Being a true Texan and Dayton resident for 72 years, his happy spirit and love of the town made Lester Ray a natural promoter of the city.

Celebrating their 57th wedding anniversary last December, Lester Ray and his wife Betty Jo are the proud parents of four children, twelve grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. During his lifetime Lester Ray has worn many hats, working for instance as a rancher, and a rice farmer. He helped form the Seaberg Rice Company and is also an inventor. His inventions include the "Easy Start", Dr. Hennessey's Dental Flosser, and a fuel saving motor.

Lester Ray has a long career in public service. Throughout the years, he has assisted and been recognized by numerous boards and organizations. For two terms, he served on the Dayton City Council. He served on the board of the Liberty County Farm Bureau. He served on the Dayton ISD school board for fifteen years. His service to Dayton ISD has helped improve both the life and education for the children of our community. As a former bronco football player, Lester Ray's love for sports gave way to the organization of the Bronco Booster Club Oyster Supper. For twenty four years, Lester Ray served in the Dayton Volunteer Fire Department. The list of this model citizen's accomplishments will have lasting effects on our children and our community.

Actively involved in local politics, Lester Ray currently serves as the chairman of the Liberty County Republican Party. During this time, he has successfully promoted candidates for numerous elected positions. His hard work and love for Liberty County has earned him enduring respect throughout the community.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I commend this remarkable Texan for his exemplary service and dedication to the city of Dayton.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THOMAS O. MEFFERD

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Mefferd for his 22 years of dedication and service to DuPage County.

Tom began his career in emergency management in 1971 as the Civil Defense Director for the Village of Plainfield, IL, a position he held for 10 years.

In 1981, Tom left municipal government and became an instructor for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA. While

there, he was responsible for conducting training courses and disaster exercises in FEMA Region 5.

In 1988, Tom returned to local government service and became the Deputy Coordinator of the DuPage County Office of Emergency Management, where he oversaw disaster planning and training activities.

In recognition of his exemplary role as Deputy Coordinator, Tom was appointed Coordinator of the DuPage County Office of Emergency Management in 1995. While holding this position, he supervised the renovation of the county's Emergency Operations Center, designed the county's Mobile Operating Center and the installation of Illinois' first Emergency Alert System.

He also serves as a member on the Illinois Terrorism Task Force.

In 2003, Tom became the Director of the DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, as DuPage became the first county in Illinois to merge the roles of emergency management and homeland security.

Tom's steadfast dedication to protecting our communities has spanned more than two decades. On February 29, 2008 he will begin a well deserved respite. Thanks to Thomas Mefferd, DuPage County's emergency management system is clearly a cut above the rest.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring the distinguished career and service of Thomas Mefferd.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT HAL JACKSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Hal Jackson, a life-long North Texan who passed away at 87 years of age on Saturday, January 19, 2008.

Robert Hal Jackson devoted his life to helping and protecting others. Born on November 29, 1920, in Denton, Texas, he graduated from North Texas State Teacher's College, now known as the University of North Texas, in 1941. Mr. Jackson enrolled in law school at the University of Texas but left to join the Navy Air Corps on January 1, 1942. On November 14th of that year, he married his wife Barbara Hancock before serving three tours of duty in the South Pacific during World War II. He was a member of the VF-17 Skull & Crossbones Squadron and received a Silver Star for his part in the aerial attack that sunk the Yamato, Japan's largest battleship.

Upon returning from the war, Jackson finished his degree at Baylor University and Southern Methodist University. He served two terms in the Texas State Legislature representing Denton, and earned his law license in 1952. Continuing his commitment as a public servant, Mr. Jackson chose to be a defense attorney in the criminal courts, believing that the American justice system relied on strong, dedicated lawyers to compel the government to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt. Mr. Jackson was most assuredly one of those lawyers, receiving respect from both sides of

the court room for his unwavering commitment to his work.

Mr. Jackson was a member of the Denton County Bar Association, the Denton County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and a founding member of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. He served on the Denton Airport Board for two years, and was an avid supporter of the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Jackson was inducted into the Denton County Criminal Defense Attorneys Association's Hall of Fame in March 2006. He is survived by his wife Barbara, whom he was married to for 65 years, and several cousins.

Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize and celebrate the life of Mr. Hal Jackson, one he spent serving our country, both in the war and in the courtroom. His loyalty and allegiance to this nation will be sorely missed, but his memory will remain as an inspiration to those who were fortunate enough to have known him. I extend my sincerest sympathies to his family and friends; he will truly be missed by all.

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACTION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Christian Community Action on the occasion of its 35th Anniversary for providing financial and spiritual needs for the underprivileged in southern Denton County.

Christian Community Action (CCA) was founded on February 22, 1973 by a small group of Christians whose resolve was to care for "the least of the brethren." Local mainstream Christian pastors and their congregations were asked to donate food, clothing, furniture, house wares and money. Tom Duffy, founder and the original President of CCA, started organizing their efforts from a residential garage but CCA soon outgrew that space and moved to their current headquarters in downtown Lewisville, Texas. Under Mr. Duffy's tenure, CCA went from a volunteer-run storefront to three full-scale Resale stores that earn approximately \$5 million each year to assist needy families. The number of those receiving help also saw an increase from a handful of families in 1973 to more than 15,000 individuals this past year.

Christian Community Action continues to expand its services to those who need it most in more than 46 communities. They compassionately assist families financially with their needs of today while helping them learn to one day live independently for a brighter tomorrow. In addition, CCA encourages spiritual growth providing religious opportunities to further their chances of success. CCA is committed to being responsible and faithful stewards of the donations they receive ensuring that their work directly benefits families in crisis situations.

I am honored to pay tribute to Christian Community Action and the valuable contributions they provide to those in need. I commend CCA for their dedication, commitment and service to disadvantaged families in Lewisville, Texas, and the surrounding communities, during the last 35 years.

CONGRATULATING NEW YORK: LAND OF GIANTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and allow two editorials, the Feb. 5 New York Post piece "They Shocked the World" and the Daily News' "Land of the Giants," to speak to the inarguable superiority of New York's football team, the Giants. In what has become one of the greatest upsets ever, the underdog Giants ended the New England Patriots' hopes for a perfect season and brought the title home to the Big Apple and New Jersey.

The tenacity of this championship team carried it over the finish line—from the steady leadership of its most valuable player, Eli Manning, and head coach, Tom Coughlin, to the late-breaking plays from wide receivers David Tyree and Plaxico Burress. The 17-14 nail biter was a match of wills and mettle, and the people of New York are proud that their team came out on top.

Congratulations are in order for the New York Giants, and its supporters, in its win of Super Bowl XLII.

THEY SHOCKED THE WORLD

Everyone knew that Super Bowl XLII was going to make history.

Either the world would witness the coronation of Tom Brady, Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots as masters of a once-in-a-generation perfect season . . . or it would see one of the greatest football upsets ever.

But no one could possibly have foreseen that the Eli Manning-led New York Giants would pull off that upset with one of the most iconic performances in Super Bowl history: two fourth-quarter touchdown drives, including one to take a final lead with mere seconds remaining.

The team is being honored this morning with a much-deserved parade through New York's Canyon of Heroes, from Battery Park to City Hall.

Theirs was a performance, indeed, that could shape the game for years to come—if New York's already proud football history is any indication.

Take the 1958 NFL championship at Yankee Stadium—"the greatest game ever played"—where legendary quarterback Johnny Unitas' own late-game heroics led the Baltimore Colts to a thrilling overtime victory over the Giants.

It was a devastating loss for New Yorkers, but a huge blessing to the sport. Football caught the nation's imagination as never before, and the country soon discovered that its even pace, regular breaks and hard-hitting action made the game perfectly suited for the television era.

Within two years, the NFL boasted two new teams, and the newly formed American Football League (the leagues decided to merge in 1966) added eight more.

New York got its revenge in 1969, anyway, when "Broadway Joe" Namath famously guaranteed—and delivered—victory for his (AFL) Jets over the heavily favored Colts in Super Bowl III.

That victory was just as significant, shattering the image of AFL (now AFC) teams as talent-challenged upstarts and bringing an exciting and competitive parity to the sport that's propelled it toward unambiguous national-pastime status.

And who can blame Americans for falling in love when the sport's biggest game regularly features epic thrillers like Super Bowl XXV, the Giants' 1991 nail-biter win? (That game, incidentally, saw both Belichick and current Giants' coach Tom Coughlin under the tutelage of coaching great Bill Parcells.)

Or Super Bowl XXXVI in 2002, for that matter, when a young Tom Brady led his Patriots to a stunning upset over the powerhouse of the day, Kurt Warner and the St. Louis Rams?

Sound familiar?

For Eli and the Giants, this could be just the beginning.

As for New York—well, suffice it to say that Sunday wasn't the first time the locals have made football history.

Likely won't be the last, either.

LAND OF THE GIANTS

See that look of joy on Eli Manning's face? Just about any New Yorker can look in a mirror and see the same. Even two days after the most breathtaking Super Bowl finish in history.

You can also see the look on Manning's face in person Tuesday. Along with the smiles of Tom Coughlin and Plaxico Burress and David Tyree and all the other Giants as they travel up the Canyon of Heroes in a ticker-tape (these days, confetti) parade.

And richly deserved the celebration is. The Giants' end-of-the-season run was something to behold. They were tougher, smarter, faster—just plain better—than the supposedly invincible competition.

Including the now-imperfect New England Patriots:

The team that had everything going for it, the running, passing, blocking and Captain America at quarterback.

The team that was coached by no mere mortal, but by a genius.

The team that was named by so many as the finest pro football squad of all time.

There was none better than the Patriots, they all said, and they were wrong. Because when it counted, the Giants proved their mettle.

The parade is set to start at 11 a.m. at Battery Place and end at City Hall, following the route on which New York City has traditionally cheered accomplishments that lift the civic soul, some in sports, others of a far more profound nature. It's where the Giants belong this day.

Regardless of their unfortunate address—an exile forced by municipal stupidity—the Jints are a New York institution, big enough for Broadway, far too large for Moonachie.

Go and enjoy. Go and soak up all the glory and hear the wall of sound echoing up the canyon. Once experienced, it is never to be forgotten.

Just like Super Bowl XLII.

You've been replaying it in your head, haven't you? At least the final 1:15 minutes. Which were the most amazing in Super Bowl history.

There's Manning, whose abilities were so often questioned, who responded to all the doubts with class. He has the ball. The Patriots have his jersey. He breaks free, sets up and fires a high one to Tyree amid defenders. Tyree makes that one-handed catch, the catch that had to be seen to be believed. And even then was unbelievable.

The Pats still lead 14-10. Manning lofts the ball to Burress. Touchdown. Extra point. Giants, 17; New England, 14. Proving that it ain't over till it's over, a truism observed by all—except by ungracious, unsportsmanlike Bill Belichick.

What happened Sunday goes into the annals of Great New York City Sports Moments, along with the championships of the

'69 Jets, '69 Mets, '94 Rangers, and '87 and '91 Giants. As co-owner John Mara noted, "It's the greatest victory in the history of this franchise."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 31 H. Res. 943—Remembering the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster and honoring its crew members, who lost their lives on January 28, 1986, I was attending a funeral for a soldier killed in Iraq. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO THE ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE-AMERICANS

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I would like to wish the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Organization of Chinese-Americans a happy and healthy New Year for the year 4706, the year of the rat.

I hope this New Year brings the Chinese-American community of Pittsburgh much joy and thanksgiving. I am thankful for the positive impact this organization has had on the lives of Chinese-Americans and Pittsburgh as a whole. Chinese-Americans have greatly contributed to the progress of Pittsburgh as well as the entire nation. I am very honored for this opportunity to wish them a very happy 4706.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in wishing the members of the Organization of Chinese-Americans a very happy and prosperous New Year.

FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION ACT

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Forest Landscape Restoration Act. This Act establishes the "Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program" to develop, select, and fund landscape-scale forest restoration projects on Federal lands. This would include 10 collaborative forest restoration projects annually on a landscape-scale of at least 50,000 acres of Federal lands.

While there is more discussion to be had on the particulars, I think that the framework of this measure addresses some fundamental and critical concepts.

First and foremost, this bill at its core focuses on restoring the ecological integrity of our Federal lands. Restoration proposals must address a number of key ecological restoration components, including improving fish and

wildlife habitat, improving water quality, maintaining and decommissioning roads, and addressing invasive species problems.

Second, this bill is built around a collaborative process. Collaboration is not only required for the development of restoration proposals, but continues through implementation, playing a key role in project execution, monitoring and reporting. By requiring that forest restoration follows a collaborative process, we are ensuring that people work together on the future of our Nation's public lands.

Third, this bill will also reduce the threat of wildland fire and control escalating fire management costs. Restoration proposals must address forest thinning to reduce hazardous fuels, and also analyze the anticipated reductions in wildfire management costs.

Lastly, this bill encourages the use of forest restoration byproducts to foster local economic development. Byproducts from forest restoration can be used in a variety of ways, such as for woody biomass energy, pellets for home heating, value-added products, and more. This bill encourages biomass utilization and development of small businesses in rural public land communities. Furthermore, in order for a forest restoration project to be eligible, the landscape must be accessible by existing or proposed wood-processing infrastructure.

I am introducing this bill as a companion measure to a Senate bill introduced by Senator BINGAMAN. I introduce this measure today as a means to work with my colleagues in the other body and move this process along. I certainly realize that forest legislation in particular takes considerable work to craft. I therefore introduce this measure today not as a final product, but as the first step forward in a process. I look forward to gathering information and hearing more about this important topic as we work together on this measure.

Madam Speaker, the American people treasure their public lands and care deeply about their future. Our Federal lands are in need of ecological restoration, which would help us accomplish the goals of restoring the ecological integrity of our Federal lands, reducing the threat of wildland fire, fostering community collaboration and involvement, and creating jobs in rural communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, on February 6, 2008, I was unavoidably detained. I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 29, Commending the Houston Dynamo soccer team for winning the 2007 Major League Soccer Cup. I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall No. 30, Recognizing the significance of Black History Month, I would have voted "aye;" and on rollcall No. 31, Remembering the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster and honoring its crew members, who lost their lives on January 28, 1986, I would have voted "aye."

INTRODUCTION OF THE BUSINESS
ACTIVITY TAX SIMPLIFICATION
ACT OF 2008

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Business Activity Tax Simplification Act of 2008, a measure that will bring much needed clarification to the circumstances under which states may impose taxes on out of state businesses. This is a bipartisan measure in the principal sponsorship of which I am pleased to be joined by my Virginia colleague BOB GOODLATTE. We are joined in sponsorship of the measure by Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ARTUR DAVIS, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. GALLEGLY, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, Mr. HANK JOHNSON, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PENCE, Mr. BOBBY SCOTT, and Mr. WEXLER, many with whom we are pleased to serve on the House Judiciary Committee.

Traditionally, states and localities have levied corporate income, franchise and other taxes only on those businesses that have a physical presence in the taxing jurisdiction. The growth of the Internet and other forms of advanced communications has made it possible for businesses to conduct a broad range of transactions without the constraints of geopolitical boundaries. As a result, some states have attempted to expand their tax base by assessing business activity taxes against out-of-state companies that have customers but no property or employees in the taxing state. Both large and small companies are facing an increasingly unpredictable tax environment, which hinders business expansion and threatens the continued development of e-commerce.

The measure we are introducing today will bring certainty to the increasingly chaotic tax environment for businesses by clarifying that the states cannot attempt to tax the income of a company that has no physical presence within the taxing state's borders. Our legislation sets forth clear, specific standards to govern when businesses should be obliged to pay business activity taxes to a state. Generally, a business must use employees or services in a state for 15 days or more in a calendar year before it is liable to pay business activity taxes to that jurisdiction.

The Business Activity Tax Simplification Act also modernizes a law which Congress enacted forty-nine years ago that set clear, uniform standards for when states could tax out-of-state businesses based upon the solicitation of orders for specified kinds of sales. Reflecting the economy of its time, the scope of Public Law 86-272 was limited to income taxes on the sale of tangible personal property. Our nation's economy has changed dramatically over the past half-century, and the statute must be modernized to apply equally to the sale of intangible property and services, and to other business activity taxes.

I want to emphasize that the Business Activity Tax Simplification Act does not diminish the ability of states and localities to collect tax revenue. Rather, it rationalizes and makes more predictable the process of doing so.

The lack of clarity in current law has led to sometimes absurd results. A collection agent with the New Jersey Department of Taxation

stopped a refrigerated truck loaded with product belonging to Smithfield Foods, a company headquartered in my state of Virginia, on the New Jersey turnpike. The agent held the truck and its driver for several hours and demanded that, to release the truck, Smithfield had to wire \$150,000 immediately to the New Jersey Department of Taxation. The agent claimed that he had the right to hold the truck and its contents because Smithfield had failed properly to file New Jersey tax returns.

Smithfield informed the New Jersey agent that his claim was unfounded. It explained that Public Law 86-272 protected it from New Jersey income taxation because it only engaged in solicitation by advertising in New Jersey and had no physical operations in the state. The agent refused to accept this explanation; however, he finally agreed to release the truck and its driver in return for \$8,000.

Smithfield appealed this aggressive and incorrect application of Public Law 86-272 to the New Jersey State tax commissioner. Ultimately, New Jersey accepted Smithfield's contention that it has no physical presence in the state and is, therefore, not subject to New Jersey income tax. It issued Smithfield a refund and an apology for its roadside justice system, but not before Smithfield had invested much time and expense in resolving a situation which should not have arisen. Our measure will help avoid such scenarios in the future by clarifying the physical presence standard embodied in Public Law 86-272.

New Jersey has used similar tactics against out-of-state companies selling intangible goods to its residents, a situation not covered by Public Law 86-272. It has argued that a mom-and-pop South Carolina software company, with no physical presence in any states besides South Carolina and Georgia, owes a minimum of \$600 per year in corporate income taxes and fees based only on the sale of licensed software to a New Jersey entity, and that the company would owe such tax every year that its software was in use in the state, even for those years in which the company had no income from any customer in New Jersey.

The Louisiana Department of Revenue has threatened to assess business activity taxes on several out-of-state companies based merely on the fact that they broadcast programming into the state, arguing that the companies are exploiting the Louisiana market because the programming is seen or heard by individuals in Louisiana.

Several states attempt to assess business activity taxes on out-of-state credit card companies based solely on the fact that people use the companies' credit cards in the taxing jurisdiction and enjoy the "substantial privilege of carrying on business" in the state.

Some localities have attempted to impose personal property taxes on property orbiting in space. For example, Los Angeles County attempted to impose a property tax on a county-based company which owned eight communications satellites permanently orbiting in space. The city of Virginia Beach, Virginia, also attempted to impose personal property taxes on three transponders attached to satellites orbiting in space which were owned by a city-based cable company. If states were to use the same approach to impose business activity taxes, on the basis that a satellite orbiting above the state creates a physical presence there or because a business generates

income in a state because its satellite passes over the state, there would be significant consequences for many industries.

The Business Activity Tax Simplification Act offers Members the opportunity to put an end to nonsensical situations like these. In doing so, we will provide certainty to both U.S. businesses and to states, thereby fostering economic growth and development. I thank Mr. GOODLATTE and the original cosponsors of the Business Activity Tax Simplification Act for their support, and I urge each of our colleagues to join with us in passing this bipartisan measure.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS K. FLEMING
FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE NORTH RICHLAND
HILLS, TEXAS COMMUNITY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas K. Fleming. Mr. Fleming, of North Richland Hills, Texas, after 13 years of service, has recently retired from S.C.O.R.E., the Service Corps of Retired Executives.

Mr. Fleming helped to establish the local North Richland Hills chapter of S.C.O.R.E. in 1995. Under his leadership, S.C.O.R.E. has offered small business seminars and one-on-one counseling to owners and prospective owners of small businesses at the North Richland Hills Public Library for more than a decade.

Under Mr. Fleming's leadership, S.C.O.R.E. has helped thousands of small business owners in the North Richland Hills area by giving them expert, no-cost, confidential counseling to improve the chances of their small business success. The local economy owes many thanks to Mr. Fleming's guidance.

While his time with S.C.O.R.E. is coming to a close, I am confident Mr. Fleming will continue to enrich the city of North Richland Hills as a devoted resident. I am privileged to join his family, friends, and coworkers in extending my sincere congratulations on his retirement.

Again, Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Thomas K. Fleming for his diligent work as a dedicated serviceman to his local community. I am honored to acknowledge such a committed and altruistic citizen. It is the servant leadership of Mr. Fleming, and those like him, which truly makes our nation great.

HONORING SUPER BOWL XLII
CHAMPIONS THE NEW YORK GIANTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the New York Delegation to congratulate the champions of the football world, the New York Giants. They successfully defeated the perfect New England Patriots 17-14 in Super Bowl XLII in one of the biggest

upsets in Super Bowl history in Glendale, Arizona on February 3, 2008.

New Yorkers were first introduced to professional football and the New York Football Giants in my congressional district, sharing their games with the city's baseball Giants in the Polo Grounds. From those magnificent days on 155th Street and 8th Avenue until today, the Giants have always brought us memorable games. Deep-rooted enthusiasts remember the famed Sneaker Game when the team, playing in 9 degree weather, switched to basketball shoes to increase traction in the icy turf Frankfurt Yellowjackets in 1925. They recall how the G-men sailed to Super Bowl victory in 1986 under the powerful running game of Joe Morris, the pressure of Lawrence Taylor and near-perfection of quarterback Phil Simms. Football fans everywhere will also recall how the Giants won their second Super Bowl in a dramatic 20–19 victory over the Buffalo Bills.

In Super Bowl XLII, the Giants have once again provided fans with another dramatic victory. This time it was against arguably one of the greatest offenses that the game has seen, an undefeated veteran team who was widely expected to win their fourth championship of the decade. Yet the Giants remained resilient. Just like they overcame an early 0–2 start to their season, they overcame early mistakes to keep it close. And then when it mattered the most, they came up with a perfect answer for the perfect Patriots: a frantic 12-play, 83-yard drive, led by quarterback Eli Manning, that featured a dazzling leaping catch by David Tyree and key plays by running back Brandon Jacobs, as well as receivers Steve Smith and Plaxico Burress.

Because of their team effort, the Giants now become the first NFC wild card team to win a Super Bowl. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire team who placed with such valor and heart. Especially to the recipient of the Most Valuable Player Award, quarterback Eli Manning who has shown tremendous growth and has matched the successes of his brother, Indianapolis Colts quarterback Paton Manning.

I also salute the co-owners, the Mara and Tisch families and their coaches—Head Coach Tom Coughlin, Offensive Coordinator Kevin Gilbride, Defensive Coordinator Steve Spagnuolo, Special Teams Coordinator Tom Quinn, and the rest of the coaching staff for their commitment, expertise and leadership. Coughlin, a highly successful head coach at Boston College and with the Jacksonville Jaguars, and a former Giants assistant, was hired as the 16th head coach in Giants history. This victory is Coughlin's first appearance in a Super Bowl as a head coach.

History will always have a special place for Coughlin's New York Football Giants. They are truly an inspirational team whose victory will live forever in Super Bowl lore.

HONORING WILLIAM H. LEWIS JR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor a friend and colleague William H. Lewis, Jr. of Neptune, New Jersey who passed away on Monday, January 28. Bill was

a remarkable man who dedicated his life to public service. He will be greatly missed by his family, his friends and the entire New Jersey community he served.

After a second valiant fight with cancer, Bill died at the Jersey Shore University Medical Center. Born in New York City on November 27, 1939, he lived a fulfilling and diversified life in which he found great successes in so many areas.

Bill was an enthusiastic educator for almost 30 years. Along with his wife, Bill started teaching in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, before they would move back to New Jersey to his childhood roots, where he then taught at Shore Regional High School, in West Long Branch. He was also an adored football and track coach and a local advocate at the West Side Community Center in Asbury Park.

During his days at Shore Regional, Bill would become a local Monmouth County Education Association president, working hard to protect teacher's rights. When Bill retired from teaching 18 years ago, he would continue advocating for children in New Jersey outside of the classroom. He became a full-time activist for the New Jersey Education Association, where he worked to advance and protect the rights, benefits, and interests of its members, and promote a quality system of public education for all students. It was in this capacity that I had the honor of working closely with Bill. Together we worked to help New Jersey students achieve excellence.

Bill is survived by a son, William David Lewis and a daughter, Michele Lewis, as well as other loving extended family members. His loving wife, Laura Oxley Lewis predeceased Bill, whom he lost almost 6 years ago to her own bout with cancer.

Madam Speaker, Bill Lewis was a devoted advocate for children and public education. He was a strong champion for New Jersey's children, working tirelessly to provide them with better opportunities and life choices. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this trying time.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF GENOCIDE IN BOSNIA

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the victims of genocide in Bosnia. I would particularly like to draw the attention of this body to the atrocities perpetrated by Serb forces against the Bosniak and Croat populations in eastern Bosnia. Eastern Bosnia became the site of a number of atrocities long before the name Srebrenica became known worldwide. The aggression perpetrated against the newly independent and sovereign Bosnia and the genocide of its Bosniak population took one of its earliest and most vicious forms with the attacks of Serb forces on eastern Bosnia in 1992. The multi-ethnic and multi-religious character of eastern Bosnia was systematically destroyed beginning in April 1992.

The historic town of Visegrad epitomizes what happened in eastern Bosnia in 1992. The assault on Visegrad started on April 6, 1992 when Serb military units began shelling

Visegrad and several of the nearby Bosnian Muslim villages. With the takeover of Visegrad, Serb forces unleashed a campaign of terror against the Bosniak and Croat population of Visegrad. Every day men, women and children were killed on a famous bridge on the Drina and their bodies were dumped into the river. Many of the Bosniak men and women were arrested and detained at various locations in the town. Serb soldiers raped women and inflicted terror on civilians. Looting and destruction of Bosniak and Croat property occurred daily and mosques in Visegrad were destroyed.

As the journalist Ed Vulliamy described in *The Guardian*: "For centuries, although wars had crisscrossed the Drina, Visegrad has remained a town two-thirds Bosnian Muslim and one-third Bosnian Serb. The communities entwined, few caring who was what. But in the spring of 1992, a hurricane of violence was unleashed by Bosnian Serbs against their Muslim neighbors in Visegrad, with similar attacks along the Drina valley and other parts of Bosnia. Visegrad is one of hundreds of forgotten names . . . As elsewhere, the pogrom was carried out on orders from the Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his military counterpart General Ratko Mladic, both still wanted for genocide." By the end of 1992, the Bosniak and Croat communities in Visegrad were effectively "cleansed" through killings and deportations. Some survivors of the initial attacks on eastern Bosnia found their way into the three Bosnian government-held enclaves and United Nations-declared "safe havens" of Srebrenica, Zepa and Gorazde. The tragic fate of these "safe havens" is well known. The fate of Visegrad and the pattern of genocidal violence was similar in other eastern Bosnian towns such as Bijeljina, Zvornik and Foca.

As we prepare to mark another anniversary of the beginning of genocidal violence in eastern Bosnia and as we prepare to commemorate the 13th anniversary of Srebrenica, let us remember the victims of Visegrad and other Visegrads throughout Bosnia.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly introduce legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to some of the most valiant and courageous soldiers who have ever fought for our Nation—the troops who battled and were prisoners of war at Bataan during World War II.

Nearly seven decades ago, the United States responded to the attacks on Pearl Harbor by declaring war—and more than 5,000 miles away in the Philippines, thousands of American soldiers, many of whom were from my State of New Mexico, found themselves on the frontline of this global fight. For 4 months, in the face of overwhelming odds and without ready supplies or reinforcements, these troops fought and died for their Nation. Their efforts not only provided the U.S. with much needed stories of heroism during a dire, dark time of the war, their sacrifice also substantively provided much needed time for U.S. and Allied

commanders to regroup, plan, and prepare for the Pacific battle. Without these troops delaying the momentum of the enemy, the U.S. might not have fully recovered from the Pearl Harbor attack until much later.

After months of fighting and with his men starving and sick, on April 9, 1942, the commander of the troops at Bataan reluctantly surrendered. Shortly thereafter, nearly 12,000 American troops and 67,000 Filipino troops were forced to march through tropical heat and without food or water for days on end in what became known as the Bataan Death March. Many died during this time, and those who survived were subject to three years of mistreatment, malnutrition, sickness and captivity before being rescued and released near the end of the war.

For the State of New Mexico, this chapter of World War II is particularly near to our hearts. New Mexico's 200th and 515th Coast Artillery units served with significant honor during the battle of Bataan, earning the distinction of being the "first to fire" on the enemy on December 8, 1941. Many of the Americans captured and held as prisoners of war were from New Mexico, and of the 1,800 who left home to fight, half did not return. Further, nearly a third of those did return home after their tortuous 3 years of captivity died within a year, most often due to complications from health issues directly attributed to their time in the POW camps.

The 200th and 515th also are notable because they largely consisted of Hispanic soldiers, a group that at the time was often subject to discrimination in the military due simply to their ethnicity. Despite these barriers, they fought without hesitation, noting that they were as American as any other soldier who wore the uniform. They came from every corner of the State, from Farmington to Alamogordo, from Deming to Raton, and from Clovis to Gallup.

Many years ago, my father Stewart Udall wrote a book called *Majestic Journey* chronicling the early explorations of North America in the sixteenth century. He described the vision, the individualism, and the pioneering spirit of early Hispanic explorers, and I believe that like these explorers, the actions of the Bataan prisoners of war "resonate through the annals of our history, and the imprint they left on our culture is both permanent and profound. They will add a special luster to our national story."

Every year, thousands of people participate in the Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sand Missile Range in southern New Mexico. The 26.2 mile march not only marks the historical significance of the event, but reminds us of how many in New Mexico underwent the ordeals at Bataan. In Albuquerque, stone columns rise from the ground at the Bataan Memorial Park, each of them bearing both the names of those who returned from Bataan and those who did not. In Santa Fe, the Military Museum bears the name of Bataan, reminding all who enter of the costs of war and the sacrifice made by our soldiers. And all across the country are similar memorials, keeping alive the memory of those who went through years of suffering at Bataan.

I want to thank the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Preservation League for their help on this legislation. Also, General Leo Marquez, General Edward Baca, General Melvyn Montano, General Gene Chavez, General

Kenny Montoya, and New Mexico Department of Veterans Services Secretary John Garcia for their continued insistence that we honor the Bataan veterans.

Madam Speaker, we must never forget the sacrifice of our soldiers, particularly during times of war. We are reminded daily of the hardships and danger faced by the men and women currently fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq. Like the soldiers of Bataan, these brave troops fight for patriotism, for duty, and for country. I hope my colleagues will join me to honor the sacrifice of the soldiers at Bataan by awarding them the Congressional Gold Medal.

IN MEMORY OF MIMI SCHMIDT

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of Emilienne Desnoyers "Mimi" Schmidt, with whom I enjoyed a warm personal relationship for about 30 years.

Mimi died in her sleep a couple of weeks ago. She leaves behind a legacy of nurturing a fine family of outstanding citizens while also helping to nurture a growing community. Her son Dominic is a close family friend, as are her grandchildren Brandon and Brianna.

Mimi and her husband, Glen, moved to my hometown of Simi Valley, California, in 1962. Mimi was then pregnant with their seventh son and Simi Valley was a rural community of apricot and walnut groves.

Others joined the Schmidts in moving to the valley and a cityhood drive was launched in 1966. Fifty-five citizens placed their names on the ballot. Mimi was the only woman. That effort failed but three years later the citizens of the two communities of Simi Valley and Santa Susana voted to incorporate into the City of Simi Valley.

Glen's chairmanship of the incorporation study committee catapulted him into a four-year term on the Ventura County Board of Supervisors in 1970, which put his career as an aerospace engineer on hold. It also forced him to take a pay cut. With seven boys to feed, Mimi reentered the workforce.

Before commuting "over the hill" to work each day, Mimi took the time to pack her sons lunches, using a whole loaf of bread to do so. She also helped form Cub Scout Pack 3621 and was active in the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church's bereavement ministry.

In 1979, with her family mostly grown, Mimi again ran for the Simi Valley City Council. Not getting elected did not diminish her passion for politics. She was a life member of the Simi Valley Republican Women's Club, serving one term as its president, and helped organize its annual garden tour. In addition, she served as a poll worker at her neighborhood precinct for many years and volunteered as a docent at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.

She never forgot, however, that she was a mother and grandmother first.

In addition to Dominic and his wife, Teresa, and their children, Brandon and Brianna, Mimi is survived by her six other sons and their families: David and Carol and their daughters, Samantha and Michelle; Dan and Phyllis; Damian and Karen and their sons, Ryan and Cameron; Douglas and Patricia and their son,

Morgan, and twin daughters, Riley and Madison; Darren and Theresa and their son, Ken, and daughter, Stephanie; and Dennis and Julia and their twin daughters, Elizabeth and Melissa.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in remembering Mimi Schmidt's lifelong love of family and community and in offering our condolences to her family and friends.

HONORING INDIANA COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Indiana County, Pennsylvania, for being named one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People in America by America's Promise Alliance. Indiana was one of only two communities in Pennsylvania to receive this award. It is a great honor and achievement by the government of Indiana County and, most importantly, its community. I am proud of their hard work and dedication to our youth.

The objective of the 100 Best Communities competition is to recognize outstanding community-wide efforts that improve the well-being of youth. Indiana County has achieved this through the creation of a Children's Advisory Commission to assess the needs of the children and youth of the county and create positive after school activities. The annual Family Fun Fest was also noticed for its ability to connect parents and youth in a way that strengthens the family bond and promotes positive behavior.

I congratulate the people of Indiana County and their government for creating an environment where young people can thrive in a nurturing environment. It is truly a great place to call home, a wonderful place where our youth can grow and thrive. The county has illustrated great initiative in creating an environment that encourages young people to get involved work together, and help others in their community. I am proud of the work Indiana County has done to encourage positive youth development, and I hope they continue to be recognized for their efforts.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HANOVER PARK

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Hanover Park, Illinois, an exciting and important town in my congressional district.

Today, Hanover Park has grown to include more than 12,000 families. However, its history truly began in the 19th century when the community began to lay roots in northern Illinois.

With its close proximity to downtown Chicago and the major commercial centers surrounding O'Hare airport, Hanover Park represents the perfect blend between urban dynamism and suburban life.

Hanover Park also boasts the youngest average resident population in the Northern suburbs. Its multitude of parks, sporting venues, and youth and family friendly activities make this a great place to work, live, and raise a family.

The spirit of Hanover Park's citizens is matched only by the industriousness of its business community. From small entrepreneurial endeavors to Fortune 500 companies, Hanover Park's economy is thriving. This impressive economy owes its prosperity to both the hardworking residents, the Village President Rodney Craig, and Hanover Park Board of Trustees to promote new business tax incentives and champion economic development. For over half of a century, the Village of Hanover Park has been a thriving community.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of Hanover Park, Illinois on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

CELEBRATING THE ALEXANDRIA MARDI GRAS ASSOCIATION

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Alexandria Mardi Gras Association.

On March 3, 1994, the 295th Anniversary of the Founding of Louisiana by Iberville, the Alexandria Mardi Gras Association was officially established. The goal of Alexandria Mardi Gras, or Mardi Gras au Coeur de la Louisianne, which means Mardi Gras in the Heart of Central Louisiana, is to exemplify unity and cohesiveness during family friendly festivities.

This year during Alexandria's 15th Anniversary Mardi Gras, Julie Hanna, renowned conservationist is representing the Jack Hanna family as Grand Marshal. The Alexandria Zoo, nationally recognized for breeding Bengal tigers and other endangered species, is a major collaborator in advancing education and tourism during the Mardi Gras celebrations.

The 2008 College Cheerleaders and Classic Cars Parade on Friday, February 1, 2008 will feature many of Louisiana's colleges and universities and their student government presidents during an educational leadership conference. In addition, a select number of LSU football players, who recently became the 2007 National Champions, are participating in Alexandria's Family Friendly Mardi Gras as well as players from the 2003 National Championship team. The celebrated bands of Southern University and Grambling University will perform designating Alexandria as the only Mardi Gras Parade in which both bands are featured.

Among other Alexandria events during the Mardi Gras season the Krewe of LOUISIANA is hosting its Third Annual Gala in order to foster its goal of enhancing economic development and unifying Louisiana's interests. Also, The Taste of Mardi Gras is again hosting its

local charity fundraiser naming the Louisiana Restaurant Association, Chapter Cenla as the sponsor.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the citizens of Alexandria for their continued hard work and dedication to ensure that Mardi Gras in Central Louisiana retains the charm and spirit of the first official celebration 15 years prior.

RECOGNIZING WES TURNER FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS THROUGH HIS WORK AT THE FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Fort Worth Star-Telegram President and Publisher Mr. Wes Turner. After more than two decades with the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Mr. Turner has retired.

Mr. Turner began his career at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in 1975 and rose through the ranks to become the Vice President of Advertising. From 1987 through 1997, he was at various newspapers before returning to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram as Publisher.

While at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Mr. Turner devoted his career to ensure that the people of Fort Worth were properly informed about the world around them. I know his readers thank him for his efforts.

Besides his work with the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Mr. Turner is very active in his community. He serves on the boards of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, Performing Arts Fort Worth and the Longhorn Council-Boy Scouts of America Foundation. He is Vice Chairman of the Van Cliburn Foundation and Campaign Chairman for the United Way of Tarrant County.

Even though Mr. Turner has completed his work at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, we can all be thankful that he will maintain his commitment to the city of Fort Worth by continuing with his other community service endeavors.

I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Wes Turner on his retirement. His dedication and commitment to providing the truth to the citizens of Fort Worth made us all lead better lives. It is an honor to represent citizens like Mr. Turner in the 26th Congressional District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT M. BALL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Robert M. Ball, a great man who lived a life dedicated to serving the American people. Mr. Ball passed away last week at the age of 93, but we will forever be indebted to the legacy he leaves for us through his lifetime of commitment to the social insurance programs of Social Security and Medicare that

allow us to provide for the elderly and people with disabilities and their families.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in extending my condolences to the Ball family, his wife Doris, his children Jonathan and Jacqueline, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Born in Harlem and raised in Boston and New Jersey, Mr. Ball was the youngest in a family led by Methodist ministers who taught him the social gospel. He was educated at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, where he received a master's in labor economics. Even as a teenaged boy, Mr. Ball felt a calling to contribute to something greater than himself. As his biographer Professor Daniel Berkowitz wrote in *Robert Ball and the Politics of Social Security*, Mr. Ball indicated that he wanted to become a "person of consequence." Considering his contributions to Social Security and Medicare, he certainly lived up to his hopes for himself.

After taking a Federal civil service exam, Mr. Ball was called up to work for the newly forming Social Security Board as a field assistant in Newark, New Jersey in 1939. He joined Social Security and immediately understood that Social Security was a contract between generations that ensured that today's workers would provide for today's retired seniors so that they may avoid the indignities of abject poverty. He saw his job in support of this new social insurance program as part of something greater. Mr. Ball helped build Social Security from the ground up. As a field assistant in Newark, he was bringing workers into the program, spreading the news about the value of social insurance several years before the first benefit was even paid in 1942.

His next position in the new Social Security headquarters in Baltimore allowed him to fully engage with his primary interests: the philosophy of the program, the legislative agenda, and where the whole program was going. Mr. Ball grew to know the program intimately. He developed a deep technical expertise in Social Security, and he also grew to know Congress and how it works. He was soon able to provide legislators with what they needed to govern and oversee the Social Security programs responsibly and effectively. Mr. Ball became so familiar with the work of the Committee on Ways and Means, that he was seen by Members as an extension of their congressional staff.

Mr. Ball's career is intertwined with the history of Social Security and he played a key role in every major policy development. He was the architect of the 1950 amendments, which raised benefits and expanded coverage to more Americans. He helped implement the disability insurance program beginning in 1956. He orchestrated the developments that produced the 1972 amendments that linked benefits to inflation, ensuring that Social Security would never fail to meet basic needs.

In what was seen as a natural assumption, he was appointed by President John F. Kennedy as Commissioner in 1962, a post in which he diligently served longer than anyone else prior or since. He is regarded by many as the father of Medicare, as he shepherded the Federal Government through the development and implementation of that program.

In 1987, Yale School of Management Professor Ted Marmor, who began his career as an intern under Mr. Ball's superiors, wrote this description of Robert Ball. I think it captures

the quiet and competent strength of the man quite well:

Ball, six feet one inch, is a white-haired, broad-shouldered man whose gravity is lightened by a readily available twinkle and chuckle. He wears black-rimmed, prominent glasses that he takes on and off when shifting from speaking to reading. His expression is frequently softened by his easy smile and firm but unaggressive manner. At meetings he leans forward intently in his seat and, with a formalism that seems now a little old-fashioned, begins to speak in a manner instilled by years of testifying before Congress: 'Mr. Chairman, let me begin by stating that I am in full agreement with the general thrust of Mr. X's remarks. But I would like, if I may, to bring up three somewhat technical points about social security. . . .' Ball could have posed for pictures of executive presence in *Fortune* during the 1950s and 1960s. But in Bob Ball's case, the imagery captures much of the man, not a myth. Ball did indeed come to stand for the SSA and its reputation for honest, competent, reliable service to Americans, who were regarded as clients, not supplicants.

Even after retirement as Commissioner in 1973, Mr. Ball was often relied upon by policymakers and Presidents as a key advisor on Social Security and Medicare. An aide to President Jimmy Carter deemed him to be one of the "high priests of Social Security."

When the financing arrangements for Social Security needed to be reformed, he was appointed by President Reagan to a commission to recommend a plan of action to ensure the program's long-term fiscal health. In that role, Mr. Ball unexpectedly salvaged negotiations that had been stymied by partisan bickering and produced the deal that saved Social Security in 1983.

As the Founding Chair of the National Academy of Social Insurance, Mr. Ball helped create in 1986 what has grown to be an organization of over 800 policy experts dedicated to helping Americans better understand the role that social insurance programs play in our lives through research, leadership development programs, and forums for exchange of ideas for issues in the field.

Well into his retirement, Mr. Ball continued to defend Social Security from ideological challenges such as efforts to privatize the system and undermine the very purpose of social insurance. Last fall, he reminded us in a piece in the *New York Times* that without Social Security as designed, 13 million more seniors, one million more children, and 55 percent of people with disabilities would live in poverty today.

As a chief architect of the 1983 reforms, and someone who knew the program from the inside out, he also reminded us that the prescription for Social Security's long-term fiscal health should not result in further reductions in benefits, which are already declining in value primarily because of the increasing cost of health care and Medicare premiums. In that October piece in the *New York Times*, he wrote that "Social Security is the nation's most effective anti-poverty program. But it's much more than that. For every worker it provides a solid base on which to try to build an adequate level of retirement income. To weaken that foundation would be grossly irresponsible."

I will certainly heed his advice. Policymakers who ignore him do so at their own peril, because when it comes to Social Security, Robert Ball knew what he was talking about.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD votes I would have cast had I been present for rollcall votes 29 through 31. I was absent on Wednesday, February 6th due to familial obligations.

If I were present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 29, "yea" on rollcall vote 30, and "yea" on rollcall vote 31.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. AND MRS. JOHNNY CLIFTON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention to pay recognition to a special day in the lives of two constituents of mine, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Clifton.

On February 14, Johnny and Judy Clifton will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. To help commemorate this special occasion, the couple will gather with friends and family at the First United Methodist Church of Saks, Alabama on February 9.

Johnny and Judy have raised two children, Malea and Brian, and have four grandchildren, Katie, Whitney, Nathan and Aria. Johnny is an Etowah County native, who served with distinction as an Alabama State Trooper and as a sergeant with the Alabama Bureau of Investigation. Judy grew up in Anniston, and retired from AmSouth Bank after 24 years of service and remains active in the community.

I would like to congratulate Johnny and Judy on reaching this important milestone in their lives. I wish them and their family the best in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF "FUTA SURTAX REPEAL ACT"

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, employers across our country contribute a portion of their payroll on a per employee basis to pay for the potential future unemployment benefits of their workers. In a very real sense, this payment—required by law—represents a trade-off for workers, where the tax is paid at the expense of workers today, who would otherwise currently be receiving higher wages or more opportunities for work. If paid to workers directly, they could spend or save it as they wished. Still, our government has decided that this tax is an important investment that must be made on behalf of an employee in case the business falls on hard times and resorts to layoffs.

It works like this: under the provisions of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA), employers pay an extra 0.6 percent on the first

\$7,000 of payroll per employee in Federal unemployment taxes. Depending on the size of a company and the number of workers on payroll, these extra taxes can add up and affect decisions to invest in new equipment, hire workers, retain employees or even pay more in wages. Back in the 1970s, Congress faced an unusual shortfall in the trust funds that hold unemployment taxes, so it decided to levy an additional 0.2 percent surtax on employers, known as the FUTA surtax. Again, as employers paid more in non-wage benefits, the wages of employees suffered by this same amount. This meant that the previous payroll tax contribution for Federal unemployment was raised from 0.6 percent to 0.8 percent. While 0.2 percent may not seem like a significant imposition, over the decade this 25 percent increase in the overall unemployment tax restored a sound financial footing to the trust funds.

But the surtax didn't go away. Since it was no longer needed, after the 1980s, the FUTA surtax has been repeatedly extended—most recently in December 2007—and used as an extra source of tax revenue for Congress to spend on other unrelated programs. In other words, as the House and Senate expand Federal programs, the American wage payer is literally picking up the tab in a form that conveniently doesn't show up as an increased income tax burden. Today, the Federal unemployment insurance trust funds have about \$35 billion more than they need, making the additional \$1.5 billion per year brought in through the FUTA surtax totally unnecessary. Even without the surtax, the standard unemployment tax on employers brings in more than enough money to support the current Federal responsibilities, without even tapping the \$35 billion in the trust funds. In fact, the outstanding balances in the Federal accounts are about six to seven times the annual cost of the unemployment program, leaving plenty of room for a "rainy day" reserve.

My legislation would repeal the FUTA surtax for once and for all. As our Nation's economy and workers face uncertain times, rolling back the FUTA surtax would provide new flexibility to employers at just the right time—enabling a stronger and more prosperous workforce.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF CONNY B. McCORMACK, LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Conny B. McCormack, an outstanding Californian, who has recently retired from 30 years of public service, the last 12 as Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk.

Mrs. McCormack is the epitome of the competent, capable, dedicated public servant. Her career accomplished many noteworthy positions before she came to Los Angeles County. As the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, Mrs. McCormack has met with great success. Her Registrar of Voters duties saw her conduct elections in 88 cities, 100 school districts, and 149 special districts for roughly 4 million voters across 5,000

precincts. Her duties as Recorder/County Clerk included maintaining birth, death and marriage records for a county of nearly 10 million people and recording and filing countless property documents and statutory oaths. Her office maintained over 200 million documents, a volume exceeded only by the Social Security Administration and the Pentagon. Mrs. McCormack, a great innovator, implemented the InkaVote Plus voting system, to guide voters through casting their ballots correctly and make voting easier for the disabled, and launched a new Enterprise Recording Archive system that eliminated manual processes to increase efficiency and cut down the use of paper.

Mrs. McCormack embodies the characteristics of a highly respected public servant, humble, lovable, spirited, renowned for her skills in the kitchen, a lover of outdoors gardening, hiking, and playing with her adopted canines from the L.A. County animal shelter. Mrs. McCormack is a great role model for our young women and a workers' advocate who helped support numerous student and clerical training programs. She has participated in many charities, from the Christmas Angel Tree Program for local low income children to Aids Walk Los Angeles to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Conny has been an exemplary public servant known throughout her field for her dedication to her position, for her honesty, and for her integrity in her zeal to protect voters. A lifetime workaholic, an avid recycler, a true bargain hunter, a continual multi-tasker.

Madam Speaker. I proudly ask you to join me, her family, friends, and community in honoring Conny McCormack for her service in, and contributions to, the County of Los Angeles and other communities across the country.

IN RECOGNITION OF AARP'S
ETHEL PERCY ANDRUS LEGACY
AWARD BEING GIVEN TO ABRAHAM
LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today and acknowledge a special honor that is being bestowed on Abraham Lincoln High School in Los Angeles, within the 31st Congressional District that I am proud to serve.

Performing arts will once again flourish at Abraham Lincoln High School after many years of absence, thanks to a generous Ethel Percy Andrus Legacy Award from AARP. This grant recognizes the founding of AARP in 1958 by Dr. Andrus, who served as principal of Lincoln High School from 1916–1944.

As part of its 50th anniversary celebration in 2008, AARP is awarding more than \$1 million in Ethel Percy Andrus Legacy Awards to recognize excellence and innovation in education at high schools nationwide. The first of these awards will reinvigorate the performing arts program at Abraham Lincoln High School—connecting the high school's heritage of achievement with its very bright future.

On February 8, 2008, representatives of AARP, the city of Los Angeles, and the State of California will gather at Lincoln High to

dedicate a plaque at the new Ethel Percy Andrus Performing Arts Center. This center will enable students to receive pre-professional training in music, dance, theater and other performing arts.

The school will also enjoy the support of many AARP volunteers who will contribute their time and efforts in bringing the school's new performing arts center to life. These volunteers will continue the strong legacy established by Dr. Andrus of connecting all generations to work for the greater good of the community.

The more one learns about Dr. Andrus and her background and deeds . . . the more one marvels about her accomplishments and vision. In 1916, Dr. Andrus became California's first female high school principal when she was invited to head the faculty and staff of the former East Los Angeles High School. She renamed the school "Abraham Lincoln High School" to help inspire her students. The community represented a broad range of ethnicities and races—32 languages were spoken in students' homes and most families were low-income.

Dr. Andrus held her students and teachers to high academic standards. She believed in promoting creativity and fun, and fostered dances, plays, and musical performances to encourage them to pursue their creative talents, while also breaking down the barriers between students' cultures and backgrounds. She also set out to pull the community and the school together, involving parents and local organizations in many ways. At the time, extracurricular activities were rare. Where they did exist, they were considered frills of little value. Working against this bias, Dr. Andrus involved Lincoln's students in serving the community. Students worked in hospitals as nurses' aides, ran errands for shut-in residents, supervised playground activities for younger children, and formed art classes to make posters for local events.

She retired from teaching in 1944 in order to care for her ailing mother. After getting involved with the California Retired Teachers Association, Dr. Andrus was shocked to realize that so many retired educators were financially struggling because of inadequate income and health care. She established the National Retired Teachers Association in 1947 to give them a national voice, and established the first nationwide group health insurance program for its members.

In 1958, she established the nonprofit, non-partisan organization now known as AARP so that people at mid-life and older could enjoy independence, dignity and purpose as they aged. Since its founding, AARP's motto has been "To serve, not to be served." Since its founding, AARP has grown to more than 39 million members with more than 3.3 million members in California alone.

Ethel Percy Andrus passed away in July, 1967, but her legacy lives on in countless ways. I am pleased that one very special way that she lives on will be in the songs and dances of the students at Abraham Lincoln High School. I have no doubt she will be checking in on their progress from time to time and rejoicing in their talents!

Abraham Lincoln once said, "Whatever you are, be a good one." Ethel Percy Andrus embodied this clear bold statement and the students at this school carrying his name, and all of us, should also rise to this challenge. Each of us can make a difference.

I congratulate James Molina, principal of Abraham Lincoln High School, and the students and parents of this fine school, and commend AARP for giving students fresh opportunities to grow academically, creatively and personally—sharing their "Lincoln spirit" with a nation and a world that needs their intelligence, commitment and idealism.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 942.

As an original co-sponsor of this resolution, I am proud to join my colleagues in recognizing the month of February as Black History Month. I would like to thank my friend and colleague from Texas, Congressman AL GREEN for introducing this very important resolution.

As we recognize Black History Month, I would also like to note, that we feel the loss of our dear friends and CBC colleagues who passed away over the last year: Congresswomen Julia Carson, Juanita Millender McDonald and founding CBC member former Congressman 'Gus' Hawkins. They always joined in on the celebrations. We truly miss them, but their accomplishments live on as a part of Black History and beyond.

As First Vice-Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. I want to take a moment to commemorate Black History Month by advocating for a greater commitment to the domestic and global HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Under funding for the Minority AIDS Initiative and with our domestic HIV/AIDS programs flat-lining, data shows communities of color are increasingly bearing the brunt of the disease. Over 188,000 African-Americans were living with AIDS at the end of 2005, representing 44 percent of all cases in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In order to raise awareness. I introduced H. Con. Res. 280 to recognize and support the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and encourages state and local governments, public health agencies and the media to emphasize and publicize the importance of this day among the African American community, and all communities. Celebrated each year on February 7th, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day encourages African Americans and all Americans to "Get Educated, Get Involved, and Get Tested."

Though we recognize Black History Month this month, it is our duty to pursue policies of social justice that are fair, sustainable, and that help the most disadvantaged in our society. As an African American woman and legislator in this era of tremendous change, I am doubly aware of the obligations that we have as a community and as a country, and Black History Month and the celebration of African American involvement.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that during this Black History Month, I will continue to work with the CBC and Congress to identify bipartisan solutions to eradicate HIV/AIDS in our nation and abroad.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

IN HONOR OF DR. FRANK BROWN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Frank Douglas Brown, a man who has given his life to serving others through his leadership in higher education.

Frank Douglas Brown graduated from Flomaton High School, in Flomaton, Alabama, a town of less than 2,000 people on the southern border of the state. He achieved an Associate's Degree in Business Administration from Northwest Mississippi Community College and went on to the University of Southern Mississippi where he earned his Bachelor's in Business Administration. After working in private industry for several years, and meeting and marrying the former Jo Ann Nichols of Bessemer, Alabama, he went to the University of Alabama for his MBA.

He then went to work for IBM as a systems engineer and marketing representative. Eventually, he left and earned his Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from Florida State University in 1974.

From there, Frank went to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education in Montgomery, Alabama, where he served as associate executive director. He stayed until 1978 and went to the University of Houston, University Park, in Texas. In 1981 Columbus College brought him to Columbus as the young college's new vice president for business and finance. Seven years later, on January 14, 1988, Dr. Frank D. Brown was appointed as the institution's third president.

Since his appointment, Frank has guided the college through unprecedented growth. Under his leadership, the college became Columbus State University, and now offers more than 50 undergraduate programs and more than 35 Master's or specialist programs. He leads a staff and faculty of more than 600, and a student body of 7,500.

Also during his tenure at CSU, the university has developed partnerships with the community, business and industry, education and governments that some say are stronger than any other university in the country.

The most recent indication of the university's level of respect may be the success of CSU's capital campaign, An Investment in People. When the campaign was first being considered in the late 1990s, many considered the originally proposed goal of about \$35 million too ambitious. At its conclusion, the campaign exceeded \$100 million.

Madam Speaker, Frank Brown has been a tireless volunteer, is active in many civic organizations, and is an enthusiastic advocate not only for Columbus State University, but for the area. I am honored to be able to call Dr. Brown a friend, I commend him for his many years of service, and wish him a happy, healthy, and blessed retirement. He will be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, February 6, 2007 I missed rollcall votes 29, 30, and 31 due to inclement weather in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all votes.

IN HONOR OF BILL LAMBERT IN
RECOGNITION OF HIS EXEM-
PLARY SERVICE

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today and pay tribute to Bill Lambert, an outstanding educator and passionate advocate for our students and teachers. Bill retired on January 2, 2008, after 45 years of exceptional service to the students of the Los Angeles Unified School District, LAUSD, and the educators of the United Teachers of Los Angeles, UTLA.

Uniquely, Bill is a product of the same school district to which he has committed his professional career. Bill is a proud alumnus of several schools in LAUSD and is a graduate of Fairfax High School. His public education served him well on the path toward achieving a bachelor of arts degree and teaching credential from the University of California at Los Angeles and a master's degree from California State University Los Angeles.

Bill has enjoyed a distinguished career as a teacher and as a union advocate, all along fighting for greater opportunities for students, teachers, better wages and expanded benefits. He began his career in 1955 as a teacher at Montague Elementary School and later continued educating students at Canterbury Elementary School. Following his early experiences as a teacher, Bill became active in a number of teachers' organizations including a stint as associate executive director of the Los Angeles Teachers' Association. In 1971, Bill played an instrumental role as one of the initial organizers of UTLA. Once UTLA was formed, he dedicated the next 36 years to advocating on behalf of teachers as the director of governmental affairs for UTLA. Today, UTLA represents 44,000 teachers, counselors, psychologists, and nurses in LAUSD.

According to a Latin proverb, "By learning you will teach; by teaching you will learn." Bill Lambert certainly embodies these wise words. He spent his life in and out of classrooms learning and teaching, and then walked the halls of the United States Congress and the California State Legislature doing the same. His tireless advocacy on behalf of retired teachers and their pension and Social Security inequities is legendary. It's not an easy task to achieve well over 300 bipartisan co-sponsors on a bill, but through "pounding the pavement," that is exactly what Bill has helped achieve. Learning and teaching, teaching and learning, when combined with Bill's unstoppable energy and enthusiasm, you have a powerful combination.

Bill's passionate belief that a public education can be used as a tool for upward mobility by students and communities throughout Los Angeles is also illustrated in his work as an advocate to improve the lives of working families. He has lent a strong, dedicated voice to the educators and students of Los Angeles as a champion for education and labor equity. Further, Los Angeles families are forever indebted to Bill for his instrumental role in addressing racial, ethnic and religious division in Los Angeles. His work organizing the "Children of the Dream" outreach program, which brought Israeli-Ethiopians to Los Angeles and took inner-city Los Angeles students to Israel, was successful in creating dialogue and understanding between various communities in Los Angeles.

Bill's retirement marks the final chapter in a distinguished career in education that began and ends in Los Angeles. He has always been respected and admired for his dogged commitment to improving the lives of working families throughout Los Angeles, and his wonderfully giving spirit. I wish Bill much luck and leisure in the days to come when he can enjoy his cherished pastime of traveling. I suspect, however, that even in retirement Bill will continue to be a powerful and unyielding voice for children.

Madam Speaker, as family, friends, and colleagues gather to celebrate Bill's many accomplishments, it is with great admiration and pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting this exceptional advocate. On behalf of the countless students and educators to whom Bill Lambert has dedicated his career, and the entire labor community which has benefited immensely from his lifelong contributions, I say thank you and may you enjoy many more years of fruitful endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, due to the state of emergency in West Tennessee caused by a devastating tornado storm, I was unable to return to Washington in order to vote on the evening of February 6, 2008. If present, I would have voted "yea" on the following three bills: Rollcall No. 29 for H. Res. 867; Rollcall No. 30 for H. Res. 942; Rollcall No. 31 for H. Res. 943.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN HOLLAND AS
SANTA ROSA COUNTY TEACHER
OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Kevin Holland, Santa Rosa County's Teacher of the Year.

For the past 14 years, Kevin Holland has captivated students at Pace High School in Pace, Florida with his charismatic personality and outstanding teaching practices. With

classes in advanced and college level math, students and teachers alike have marveled at his ability to break down the curriculum and translate it into something tangible that his pupils can comprehend. His exceptional ability to connect with the students furthers their understanding of this advanced subject matter and propels them towards academic success.

In addition to being named Teacher of the Year for Santa Rosa County, Mr. Holland is also a designated Master Teacher. Both titles highlight his outstanding teaching capabilities and emphasize his engaging personality. Mr. Holland is liked and respected by students and teachers, yet his involvement in the school is not limited to Mathematics. Mr. Holland is also the voice of Pace High School's Red, White, and Blue Band.

The title of Teacher of the Year is an immense honor and is evidence of the greatness Mr. Holland has achieved. Beyond the title lies Mr. Holland's dedication and devotion, to not only his students but to the entire community. His teaching skills and affable personality have influenced many and pushed countless students to a higher level of academic achievement. Mr. Holland's outstanding accomplishments have distinguished him as one of the greater teachers in Northwest Florida, and Santa Rosa School District is honored to have him as one of their own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Kevin Holland on this outstanding achievement for his exemplary service in the Santa Rosa County School District.

NICOLE MARSALA, BROWARD COUNTY, FL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished member of our community in Broward County, Florida. I would like to recognize and congratulate Ms. Nicole Marsala as Broward County's Teacher of the Year for 2009. Ms. Marsala has taught her students the true meaning of civic duty, not only through her creative teaching style, but also by example, having served Coral Springs for over eight years.

Her innovative approach to teaching traditional topics in social sciences provides her students with a new perspective on some of the most important chapters in our country's history. She believes that teaching involves more than just following lesson plans in textbooks, and that it is critical to step outside the classroom from time to time and learn through hands-on experience.

I believe that there is no lesson more significant and appropriate for our students than how this country was founded, and how we can continue to improve our community. As caring as she is competent, Ms. Marsala has shown faithful dedication to the education of her students by inspiring creativity and encouraging parents to take an active role in fostering a passion for history and civic responsibility.

Madam Speaker, Coral Springs is privileged to have Ms. Marsala as a teacher, and our en-

tire community is grateful for her leadership. Her lessons have truly gone beyond the classroom, and her contributions to our community will certainly last for generations to come.

HONORING MARGARET GREGG

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor the great contributions of Margaret Gregg and would like to recognize her exceptional and tireless service to the homeless in Santa Clara County.

Ms. Gregg, who was named Woman of the Year for the 23rd Assembly District of California, is formally retiring after seeing 8 years as Santa Clara County's Homeless Concerns Coordinator.

In 1992, Ms. Gregg was hired to become the Executive Director of the San Jose Family Shelter. She remained in that position until November 1999. In February 2000, Margaret Gregg became the Homeless Concerns Coordinator for the County.

Ms. Gregg has been responsible for facilitating the County's McKinney-Vento Grant, that brings about \$8 million each year to more than 30 different homeless serving organizations. In 2006, she convinced the County to conduct a census of the homeless and followed that effort with a Task Force to create a 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. Ms. Gregg also coordinates the Collaborative on Affordable Housing and Homelessness, an organization of 250 local non-profits and government agencies.

Ms. Gregg's contributions to the community are clearly demonstrated in her compassion for and understanding of the homeless. With her Catholic background and 30 years of teaching elementary and high school students and special education students, Ms. Gregg is a strong believer in the unifying powers of faith, tolerance and understanding.

I commend Ms. Gregg for her valuable service to our community and wish her the best in her future endeavors. We are very fortunate to have benefited from her compassion, expertise and commitment. She has left her mark in Santa Clara County.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for Rollcall Nos. 29–31.

Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 29—Yes—Commending the Houston Dynamo soccer team for winning the 2007 Major League Soccer Cup;

Rollcall No. 30—Yes—Recognizing the significance of Black History Month; and

Rollcall No. 31—Yes—Remembering the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster and honoring its crew members, who lost their lives on January 28, 1986.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND TO KOREAN AMERICANS

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lee Myung-Bak on his election as President of the Republic of Korea and to express appreciation for the many contributions of the Republic of Korea and Korean Americans towards strengthening and enlarging the U.S.-Korea alliance partnership.

On January 13, 1903 the first Korean immigrants arrived in the United States. On that day each year, now known as Korean American Day, we recognize and honor the economic, social, cultural and political contributions Korean-Americans have made to the United States over the last century. Korean-Americans have thrived in this country because of a shared belief in the importance of family life, individual responsibility, hard work and education.

Over the past 50 years we have seen the Republic of Korea emerge from colonial rule and the ravages of war to stand alongside the United States as a beacon of democracy, peace and security; prospering under a free market economy whilst upholding the rule of law. Over these 50 years the Republic of Korea has been a loyal and indispensable ally to the United States as we have worked at close quarters to combat those who would threaten these shared values.

In recent times we have seen this commitment through South Korean peacekeeping troops in Lebanon and Afghanistan, and the 650 South Korean military personnel serving alongside our soldiers in Iraq today, now the third largest partner in the coalition with \$460 million pledged to the reconstruction effort. At the end of December last year, South Korea's National Assembly voted to extend the time of its commitment to provide troops for the War in Iraq. While some of our friends scale down their operations in Iraq, our South Korean friends have remained steadfast in the War on Terror, for which we are truly grateful.

In his farewell address to the Congress in 1951, one of Arkansas' greatest sons, General Douglas MacArthur, said this of the Republic of Korea: "Of the nations of the world, Korea alone, up to now, is the sole one which has risked its all against communism. The magnificence of the courage and fortitude of the Korean people defies description."

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the new President-Elect of the Republic of Korea, Lee Myung-Bak, and wish him well as he takes on the responsibility of working with the United States to tackle the challenges of the East Asian region, particularly the ongoing efforts to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing and honoring the U.S.-Korea Alliance and the contribution of our South Korean friends to the global war on terror as we work towards ensuring the safety of our citizens.

We look forward to fostering our historic relationship under the new leadership of President Lee Myung-Bak.

IN HONOR OF THE SINAI SCHOOLS
AND ITS STRONG COMMUNITY
OF PUBLIC SERVANTS

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the SINAI Schools, which provide a fulfilling environment for meeting the unique educational needs of children and young adults with learning and developmental disabilities.

Since 1982, the SINAI Schools have provided both Judaic and secular studies for individuals with a wide variety of special needs. Their elementary schools, high schools, and adult programs have earned praise from local leaders, parents, educators, and students alike. They are the only Jewish day school accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. The SINAI Schools tend to more than just the education of their students, they also care for their psychological and emotional well-being.

SINAI Schools depends on a tremendous cadre of active community leaders to maintain the unparalleled excellence of their programs. This weekend, at their annual benefit dinner, they will honor eight of these supporters who have dedicated so much of their time and energy to ensuring that all people receive the quality education that they deserve: Moshe and Arianne Weinberger, Teaneck, New Jersey; Mendy and Nomi Schwartz, Teaneck, New Jersey; Jason and Chani Teigman, Englewood, New Jersey; and Peter and Carol Weissman, Fair Lawn, New Jersey.

All of these individuals have demonstrated not only a strong commitment to education, but as active participants in their congregations and community groups like their local little leagues and volunteer ambulance corps they have also demonstrated real dedication to their heritage and their community as well. Such commitment is the backbone of our society, and I join the families of the SINAI Schools in commending these individuals this weekend.

COMMEMORATING THE HERITAGE
OF DENTON, TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the dedication of Paula Blincoe Collins' mural titled "Historic Quakertown." This dedication will celebrate Black History in the City of Denton.

The artwork is the first commissioned public art project for The City of Denton's Public Art Committee and will be dedicated on February 11, 2008.

Artist Paula Collins consulted with the descendants of the original Quakertown to select a wide assortment of images that represented life in this community. Collins then depicted these images on the brick mural.

Paula Collins is well known for her skills in brick sculpture. Among her many creations are two previously completed projects for City fa-

cilities, the "Woman of Justice" installed in 1994 and two entrance monuments erected in Denton at the Pecan Creek Waste Management facility in 2000.

I am honored to serve a talented individual like Paula Blincoe Collins in the 26th district of Texas and I know that her artwork will both beautify the community and highlight the history of Denton for years to come.

CONGRATULATING THE 2007 WEST
VIRGINIA GIRLS SOCCER STATE
CHAMPIONS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2007 West Virginia Girls Soccer State Champions, the Jefferson County Lady Cougars, who hail from West Virginia's second congressional district.

The 2007 West Virginia State Tournament took place in Beckley on November 3, 2007. The Lady Cougars played defending champion, Parkersburg High School in the final game of the tournament.

Coach Harold "Dunnie" Bach led the ladies to victory winning overall 18-1-3 season. The Lady Cougars made Jefferson County history, as the first soccer team in the county to win a state championship.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pride to acknowledge the Lady Cougars as the 2007 West Virginia Girls Soccer State Champions. Again, congratulations to these talented young women.

HONORING THE UNI-CAPITOL
WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PRO-
GRAM

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, for decades the United States has looked towards Australia as one of our closest of cultural, economic and security partners. This is true not just between the two governments but among Americans and Australians who have crossed the Pacific to visit with or work with each other. I am pleased to rise today to recognize the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, which annually delivers some of Australia's best and brightest university students to a bipartisan and bicameral array of congressional offices for two-month internships.

This is the first year that I have been privileged to participate in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. A student emissary to my office, Anthony Bremner, has added first-hand value to our understanding of global issues and perspectives as seen from Australia. Anthony, who visits us from the University of Queensland, is a text-book example of the high caliber of this program. Over the past two months, he has applied his volunteer experiences from the constituency office of Australia's newly elected Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, to my office. During this time, Anthony has attended committee briefings, drafted con-

stituent correspondence, and assisted my staff with research. His Australian accent frequently sparked conversations with my constituents interested to learn where he was from and to share their international experiences with him. This international exchange has demonstrated that through sharing our American and eastern Connecticut values and experiences we foster greater understanding and appreciation of the United States.

Anthony is not alone in this effort. This year, a record 13 students from all across Australia were matched with as many congressional offices. They were drawn from seven Australian universities in four different states and the Australian Capital Territory. Far from a solely academic exercise, the Uni-Capitol program is a practical investment in our global community, given the diverse array of congressional participants and an equally diverse array of student interests ranging from law to commerce, from the environment to communications, from international affairs to American studies.

Including this current group, 81 Australian students will have interned in Washington since the program's inception nine years ago. For launching and directing this effort here in Washington, much credit is due to its founder Eric Federer. Eric is a former senior House and Senate Congressional staffer who has worked to bridge the wide geographic distance between the U.S. and Australia through his efforts at the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program.

Madam Speaker, I would encourage all of my colleagues to seek connections with members of our global community. Similarly, I would encourage American university students to seek established and creative ways to connect with their counterparts around the globe. On this note, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Internship Program and, again, thank Anthony Bremner for his participation and hard work.

HONORING THE PRINCESS POCA-
HONTAS PAGEANT AND BALL
FESTIVAL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the history behind the Princess Pocahontas Pageant and Ball festival during the 111th Washington Birthday Celebration in Laredo, Texas.

The iconic figure of Princess Pocahontas holds a special place in the heart of the festivities, and made its first appearance in the first Washington Birthday Celebration, which was hosted by the Improved Order of Red Men. In 1897, this fraternal organization created a celebration around the birth of George Washington, and part of the initial festivities centered around an Indian ambush, but with a twist. Princess Pocahontas rode into town and rescued the city, as much as she did for Captain John Smith. This story represents the important link between Laredo and its connection to the Native American community during the Washington Birthday Celebration festivities.

Today, Princess Pocahontas is chosen from the annual beauty festival, which introduces

audiences to various aspects of Native American culture. Princess Pocahontas is accompanied by her court of Indian maidens and chieftains during the festival, and they pay homage to the Great Spirit with Native American rituals and dances. One quintessential part of the Princess Pocahontas tradition is that she rides on a horse, with the key to the City of Laredo in her hand as a reminder of the first ceremony in which she saved the citizens of Laredo in the first Washington Birthday Celebration. This year, Princess Pocahontas will be portrayed by Ms. Liza Nicole Gonzalez at the 111th Princess Pocahontas Pageant and Ball on February 16, 2008.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the long history behind the Princess Pocahontas Pageant and Ball.

HONORING ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY OF AMERICA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority of America on the occasion of its centennial anniversary in January, 2008. The Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority is the first African American sorority in America to reach the milestone of 100 years, and represents the first Greek-letter organization in this country founded by, and for, African American college women. The AKA motto is to "provide service to all mankind." Over the years, AKA members have broken barriers and attained positions in American society of tremendous distinction. The AKA sisterhood prides itself on achievement, sacrifice, and a strong belief in the limitless potential of women of color. Together, the AKA's strive for the betterment not only of themselves, but their families, their neighborhoods, and the larger global community.

From its founding in 1908, through 1921, Alpha Kappa Alpha underwent a period of significant growth. Chapters were first established throughout the Northeast and Midwest, and beginning in the mid 1920's, AKA founded new chapters in the Southeast. One of the most remarkable aspects of the AKA sorority is the history of its original nine founding members. Born during the Reconstruction era, and enrolling at Howard University at the turn of the 20th century, the founding AKA women embodied courage and soaring intellect. During a time in our nation's history when African Americans, and women especially, were viewed as second class citizens, the original AKA sisters coalesced around an affirmation of their own dignity. They taught women of color across the Nation that belief in one's self, in one's potential, is the essential building block upon which anything is possible. In a dark chapter of our history, theirs was a message of light—of hope, sacrifice and hard work in the pursuit of self-determination.

This summer, more than 20,000 members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will come together on the campus of Washington, DC's

Howard University to honor this legacy. Sorors from around the world will retrace the steps taken by the founding members ten decades ago in what is being called the "Walk Through History." Discussions and plenary sessions will be convened, where together, members will rededicate themselves to the founding principles of the AKA tradition and chart a new course for the next 100 years.

Madam Speaker, I am moved by the Alpha Kappa Alpha's prodigious historical narrative. The redoubtable strength and prescient vision of the founders paved the way for a sorority which today claims more than 200,000 members, 975 chapters, and a presence not only in the United States, but also the Caribbean, Canada, Germany, Korea, Japan, and the continent of Africa. Their unifying mission remains to serve others, while also challenging themselves and their fellow sisters to reach higher for the possible. On behalf of the nearly 3,000 members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority who reside throughout the 16th Congressional District of New York, and the surrounding counties, as well as myself, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to this most storied American sisterhood.

EXTENDING PARITY IN APPLICATION OF CERTAIN LIMITS TO MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS

SPEECH OF

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, today I stand in support of H.R. 4848, extension for 1 year, parity in the application of certain limits to mental health benefits.

H.R. 4848 would amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and the Public Health Service Act to extend until December 31, 2008, mental health parity provisions, which require group health plans to treat equally mental health benefits and medical and surgical benefits for purposes of lifetime limits or annual limits on benefits covered by the plan.

Approximately two-thirds of individuals with potentially diagnosable disorders do not seek treatment. A majority of insured and uninsured individuals suffering from untreated mental health disorders mention cost as the primary reason that they do not use or seek mental health treatment. This is due in part to unequal health insurance coverage for mental health services, which results in significant cost-shifting from private insure to individuals.

As a former social worker, I personally know untreated mental illness is associated with a number of societal problems. Such as, higher rates of unemployment, crime and increased welfare cost.

Parity for mental health is needed because, left on their own very few employers would offer mental health benefits at a level that is equal to medical and surgical benefits in their group health plan.

Mental health is a serious issue facing many Americans. The goal of H.R. 4848 is to make

sure everyone gets effective quality treatment for mental illness. In order for that to happen, mental illness needs to be treated just like other surgical and medical treatments.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 74TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLUMBUS ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 74th anniversary of the Columbus, Ohio Alumnae Chapter of my beloved sorority Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Chartered on May 20, 1934, the Columbus Alumnae chapter was the 66th chapter of the sorority. Additionally, Delta Sigma Theta, a public service, non-profit organization, will celebrate 95 years of service, locally and globally, this year.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a sorority of predominantly Black college-educated women founded here in Washington, DC at Howard University in 1913. The major programs of our sorority revolve around our Five Point Thrust of: economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and political awareness and involvement. With over 250,000 members, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority works to continue the vision of our 22 Founders.

This year, during their annual Founder's Day Luncheon, the Columbus Alumnae Chapter highlight the many activities they have been engaged in that have contributed to the betterment of the Columbus area including youth Read-Ins, Scholarships to High School graduates, mentorship, and art and culture programs. Additionally, they will recognize African American women in the Columbus area who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the community during their annual Founders Day Luncheon.

Therefore, I commend the Columbus Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for their commitment to the people of Columbus, Ohio and across this country. I join with them in this celebration and thank them for their enduring commitment to the sisterhood, scholarship, and service of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 29, H. Res. 867, commending the Houston Dynamos for winning the 2007 Major League Soccer Cup, I was absent due to inclement weather grounding flights in Wisconsin.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PRODUCTS AGENCY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I join a bipartisan team of my colleagues to introduce a resolution to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

October 1957, the Soviet Union ushered in a new dimension to the Cold War with the United States when it successfully launched Sputnik I, the world's first artificial satellite, into space.

So, on this day, in 1958 the Department of Defense established the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) to serve under the secretary of Defense as the specialized technical engine for the United States Military. The threat of Soviet technological superiority and space domination could not be tolerated amid the growing tensions and developing arms race between the two superpowers. DARPA was tasked to confront this threat.

As DARPA focused its technological strengths on the space mission, the agency achieved the unimaginable. The Saturn V rocket, which enabled the United States to launch the Apollo missions to the moon originated on a DARPA drawing board. Perhaps more important, DARPA developed the first surveillance satellites that gave our Nation accurate intelligence on Russian missile program activities throughout the world.

As the military mission evolved throughout the last half century, so too did the DARPA focus. Recognizing the changing nature of warfare well in advance of today's battles, DARPA revolutionized the way our Nation fights wars. Instead of sacrificing more troops by putting them in harm's way, our military now uses stealth technology in our aircrafts, advanced precision munitions that can be dropped into theater without dropping in troops, and now the Predator and Global Hawk unmanned air vehicles dominate the world's airspace.

DARPA's ongoing commitment to the military is not limited combat. The agency's programs are developing real-time accurate language translation, prosthetics that can be controlled by the brain, and alternative fuel sources for military vehicles that will help eliminate our Nation's dependency on foreign sources of oil.

Of course, DARPA's success has not been limited to military innovation. ARPANET, the world's first operational packet switching network, led to the development of today's Internet. Since DARPA engineers first started to connecting remote computers to each other to talk about their shared ideas and work, the Internet has revolutionized the world with the creation of endless possibilities.

The reason that DARPA's work engages the cutting edge of technology is a result of its unique business model. By limiting project managers to 4 to 6 year terms, DARPA optimizes the flow of new ideas by empowering industry experts to take risks, think outside the box and advance ground breaking research projects.

DARPA continues to meet the growing needs of the Nation as it develops significant cutting edge technology elevates the U.S. to the forefront of innovation and propels our military to be the most superior fighting force in the world.

I am proud to recognize DARPA's 50 years of innovation, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AUTOMOBILE ARBITRATION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2008

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Automobile Arbitration Fairness Act of 2008. This legislation will extend to certain consumers what Congress granted to automobile dealers in 2002: freedom from mandatory binding arbitration agreements.

Automobile manufacturers imposed mandatory binding arbitration clauses in their dealer contracts to forego forums otherwise available under state law. Unfortunately, states could not effectively address the increasing imposed use of mandatory arbitration clauses because the Federal Arbitration Act preempts such state laws. As a result, auto dealers had no legal recourse and were bound to using arbitration. Automobile dealerships voiced their plight to Congress, which in 2002 passed the 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act. This legislation included language to allow arbitration only if both parties to a motor vehicle franchise contract consented in writing to arbitration and if the consent was done after a controversy arose out of that contract.

Although automobile dealerships now have the option not to enter into mandatory binding arbitration agreements, many dealers require such binding agreements in their sales or lease contracts with automobile purchasers and lessees. This legislation would connect the chain from manufacturers to dealers and from dealers to consumers, by requiring the consent of both parties to enter into contracts with binding arbitration clauses in automobile sales and lease contracts.

I urge my colleagues to join as cosponsors of this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, February 6, 2008, I was not present for votes due to a delayed United Airlines flight.

Had I been present for rollcall 29, Commending the Houston Dynamo soccer team for winning the 2007 Major League Soccer Cup, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 30, Recognizing the significance of Black History Month, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 31, Remembering the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster

and honoring its crew members, who lost their lives on January 28, 1986, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 30, H. Res. 942, recognizing the significance of Black History Month, I was absent due to inclement weather grounding flights from Wisconsin.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

ARLENE PIAZZA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today in remembrance of a distinguished member of the Fontana community and a dear friend, Arlene Piazza.

Due to complications following surgery, Arlene passed away the night of February 5th. Her death comes 3 years after the death of her beloved husband, Mr. John Piazza. Together the Piazas were key players in our Fontana school district and city governments. Their absence will be felt by many.

For 18 years Arlene worked in business and industry. Later this dedicated woman extended her talents to our Nation's academics where she dedicated 20 years to education. We were honored to have her in our Fontana Unified school system for 13 of those years. Her zeal and passion for educating our children is reflected in those 20 years through the numerous roles she took on.

Arlene served as a gifted counselor and in 2003 was elected to the Fontana School Board. There she served as a caring and committed member who was known for loving every child. Her work ethic was continuously commended and her priorities were always focused on what was best for our young students. Her passions were to open doors of opportunity and extend a helping hand as she pushed our youth to explore a fulfilling educational future. This commitment was made apparent in 2006, when she fought to ensure voters approved a \$275 million bond measure going towards the physical improvement of schools.

While it is with sadness that we say goodbye to an incredible woman, we remember the positive change she made while she was with us. The use of her life to benefit her community is unquestionable and has served to nurture a sense of priority towards education and our young generation's future opportunities. Although now gone, in her absence she will continue to serve as an inspiration to us all.

I thank Arlene Piazza for dedicating her life to service in the Fontana community. I am honored to consider Arlene a colleague in the fight to improve education and I truly appreciate all she has given to our community and our country. She will be greatly missed. Barbara, my family, and I extend our deepest condolences to her family.

Arlene's life was dedicated to family, friends and her community. Her memory lives on in our thoughts and prayers. She will always have a special place in our hearts. She was special to all of us. She is now in a better place with her heavenly Father and at peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, a snowstorm in Milwaukee cancelled all flights to Washington, DC yesterday, and I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 29, 30, and 31. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on all three.

RECOVERY REBATES AND ECONOMIC STIMULUS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Recovery Rebates and Economic Stimulus for the American People Act, and to commend Speaker PELOSI and Minority Leader BOEHNER for their bipartisan, timely action to get our economy moving.

In Minnesota, median household income has decreased 6.8 percent since 2000, job growth is lagging, and families are being squeezed by increasing gas, health care and education costs. While the cost of the Iraq war has grown to \$36,900 per Minnesota household, over 400,000 Minnesotans live in poverty, families are losing their homes, and a growing number are uninsured.

This bill provides a recovery rebate check for 117 million families to help with rising costs and reinvigorate the economy. These rebates are targeted to middle-income Americans and additional assistance is provided for families with children. In Minnesota, the average rebate will be \$952 and over 2 million families will benefit from this tax relief. H.R. 5140 also provides tax incentives to small businesses to help create jobs, and it increases access to affordable refinancing opportunities to help families keep their homes.

H.R. 5140 is timely, targeted and temporary. While enactment of this package will give the economy a needed boost, it is not the end of our efforts. Congress needs to have a serious discussion about unemployment benefits, food stamps and aid to states facing deficits. And in order to truly grow our economy we need to invest in our infrastructure, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, educate our children, address the health care crisis and end the war in Iraq.

There are significant challenges facing this country, and I am pleased that all parties were able to work together to put together this positive first step. I urge my colleagues to take real action today and to support H.R. 5140.

NANDO GOMEZ

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of my most trusted staff members, my Chief of Staff, Fernando P. "Nando" Gomez, Jr. After working in Congress for 7 years, the past 2 as my chief of staff, Nando will be joining the private sector.

Nando's dedication to and interest in public service has led him from the small town of Gregory, TX, to the corridors of two Capitols. During his senior year at the University of Texas in 1994, he began working for the Texas House Speaker James E. "Pete" Laney. Nando worked for Speaker Laney for nearly 5 years and was appointed the House reading clerk during the 74th and 75th Legislative Sessions.

He then moved to Washington, DC in 1998 and worked for Congressman Martin Frost, serving as legislative assistant and then as legislative director. He joined my staff in 2005 and rose from Legislative Director to Chief of Staff.

Words cannot begin to describe what Nando has meant to me, my staff, and the people of the 27th district of Texas. I have relied on Nando for his professionalism, work ethic, and friendship. He takes pride in his work, which is especially personal to him because he was born and raised in the district I represent. For him, it has not just been about serving as my chief of staff—it is about advocating for the issues of his hometown, his family, and his roots.

Nando has also taken an active role with local youth. He serves in Big Brothers/Big Sisters Mentor program, where he has had the honor of serving as big brother to his little brother, Franklin, for nearly 5 years. Nando is an avid sports fan whose allegiances lie with the Texas Longhorns, Houston Astros, San Antonio Spurs and the Dallas Cowboys.

Though I bid Nando a sad farewell from my office, it will certainly not be a good bye. I look forward to seeing him around the Capitol when he comes up to catch up with old friends.

Nando remains a trusted member of my family, and I will always seek his counsel on matters political and personal. I wish him, his wife Kristy and son Dominic the best of luck during the new phase of his life.

HONORING LEGO'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, for the past 50 years LEGO has transformed childhood play and provided invaluable academic and economic contributions to local communities around the globe. On January 29, 2008, LEGO celebrated its 50th anniversary. I rise today to recognize 50 years of LEGO innovation and contributions.

LEGO USA headquarters is located in my district in Enfield, Connecticut. Over the past

three decades since headquarters moved from Brookfield to Enfield, Connecticut in 1975, the company has made substantial contributions to the local community. Today it remains the town's largest employer. Although the Enfield offices have struggled in recent years in light of increasing globalization pressures, I remain hopeful that it will continue to innovate and thrive as part of Connecticut's economy. Education and family programs, which have been highlights of the corporation in the past, will continue to have positive lasting impacts on the community in the future.

The LEGO Creative Child Care Center KinderCare@Work program, which accommodates children ages 6 weeks to 12 years of age, has received national accolades for quality childhood development services. LEGO's KinderCare@Work program incorporates an engaging, thought-provoking curriculum into a healthy and safe environment for children from the local community. Quality early education programs, like LEGO's KinderCare@Work, are essential for promoting academic and professional success in latter years and should be a model for other private and public early education programs.

Programs geared towards middle and high school students, such as the FIRST LEGO League (FLL), also provide impetus for academic success and an environmentally and socially conscientious society. FLL programs encourage students to look at problems currently affecting global communities from a pragmatic and analytical perspective. LEGO USA has been a regular host of FLL tournaments. In 2007, students from Enfield and all of Connecticut joined students from around the globe in addressing a fundamental question that continues to be the focus of leading environmentalists, engineers, scientists, and politicians: the economic, environmental, and social impact that our energy consumption choices have on our global community.

From, simple yellow and red blocks to black knights and ninjas, the iconic toy has remained a classic, thought-provoking source of play for children around the world. For providing positive academic and economic development in communities around our globe and inspiring generations of artists, architects, and engineers, I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in honoring LEGO's 50th anniversary.

HONORING ANDREW "JACK" FULTZ

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great Kentuckian.

Andrew "Jack" Fultz served Carter County for most of his life. He coached the Olive Hill High School basketball team from 1951 to 1968, leading the team to the State tournament in 1955, 1956 and 1959. He became a good friend and father-figure to many of his players and maintained that connection long after they were finished playing. Jack ended his career with an impressive win-loss record and was inducted into the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

In 1983, Jack's 794-page book, *A Comets' Tale*, was published. The book chronicles the history of Olive Hill High School athletics and serves as a testament to his knowledge and love for the many students that he coached.

Jack served the Carter County Board of Education for 60 years, working as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent and supervisor. Though he loved coaching and working for the schools, his family always came first. Jack developed a deep faith in God and became an active member of the First Baptist Church in Olive Hill.

I ask that today, as we pay tribute to Jack's extraordinary life of service that we send to Jean, Jack's wife of 60 years, and the rest of the Fultz family, our deepest condolences. Jack continues to be a role-model for all of us and his memory will live on through his life's work.

TRIBUTE TO KANSAS CIVIC PHILANTHROPIST
RON DEFFENBAUGH

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Ron Deffenbaugh, of Shawnee, Kansas, the founder of Deffenbaugh Industries.

Recently, the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce presented its 2007 Citizen of the Year Award to Ron Deffenbaugh, who moved to the Kansas City area at age 9 and started a trash collection business with one truck at age 15 in 1957. Since that modest beginning, Deffenbaugh Industries became the largest privately owned refuse firm in the Midwest, including the Johnson County landfill, Deffenbaugh Disposal Service, Shawnee Rock and Johnny on the Spot. Deffenbaugh sponsors annual city events, including Old Shawnee Days, Fields for Freedom, Tidy Town, Shawnee Christmas Around Town., and the Great Grillers barbecue competition. In 2007, Deffenbaugh sold his company to DLJ Merchant Banking Partners.

At the conclusion of the annual Chamber dinner, Deffenbaugh Industries President Mark Rosenau announced a \$500,000 donation from Deffenbaugh to the Shawnee Town renovation project. As Rosenau said, "Ron started Deffenbaugh Disposal Service 50 years ago, and he always had a special affection for Shawnee. He was always quietly generous when it came to requests for services, donations and support from Shawnee groups and individuals. When Ron was informed he had been selected for this most prestigious award, he said he wanted to give something back to his city. He knew the city planned to rebuild Shawnee Town and he decided he wanted to help with that effort."

The City of Shawnee recently issued a press release commending Ron Deffenbaugh for his recent gift to the city and for his lifetime of service and support. Madam Speaker, I include that statement with my remarks and know that all members of the U.S. House of Representatives join with me in commending this outstanding community leader:

DEFFENBAUGH DONATES TO SHAWNEE TOWN

What a wonderful Night in Casablanca, shared by Shawnee City Officials and busi-

ness leaders at the Sheraton this past Saturday! The Shawnee Chamber of Commerce hosted their Annual Dinner, which is a gala event honoring civic and business leaders in the community and celebrating a year of great achievement. The theme of Casablanca was apparent through the fashionable attendees and tropical atmosphere of the event. Many leaders were honored at the event including past Chairman and former Shawnee Mayor Jim Allen for his 2007 leadership of the Chamber, Councilmember Dawn Kuhn for the 2007 Ambassador of the year and Ron Deffenbaugh was named 2007 Citizen of the Year.

The citizen of the year honor was well deserved by Ron Deffenbaugh for his countless contributions to the Shawnee community. Deffenbaugh moved to the Kansas City area at the age of nine and started his trash collection business with one truck at the age of 15 in 1957. Since those modest beginnings, Deffenbaugh Industries, Inc. has grown to become the largest privately-owned refuse firm in the Midwest. Deffenbaugh Industries has expanded over the years to include the Johnson County Landfill, Deffenbaugh Disposal Service, Shawnee Rock and Johnny on the Spot. Deffenbaugh saw significant success and this has been shared with the Shawnee community through donations to the City and countless organizations in the community.

Deffenbaugh annually sponsors many of the City events including Old Shawnee Days, Fields for Freedom, Tidy Town, Shawnee Christmas Around Town, St. Patrick's Parade, Sister Cities Program, Great Grillers BBQ Competition and various other events and programs. They have been a wonderful community partner always generously contributing to Shawnee. Deffenbaugh executives, Tom Coffman and Mark Rosenau accepted the award on behalf of Ron on Saturday and announced that he was pledging \$500,000 to the renovation of Shawnee Town. Shawnee Town is an outdoor museum interpreting small town rural life from the 1920s, which includes a museum grounds featuring a home, barn, school, post office, chapel, fire station, various businesses, and gardens. The strategic plan for the renovation of the area was approved in 2007, and this donation will be a tremendous help in getting the project started. The City is extremely grateful to Ron Deffenbaugh and applauds his honor of being named 2007 Citizen of the Year!

CONGRATULATING JONATHAN M. SCHNEIDER

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Jonathan M. Schneider, my departing district office director and communications director who was recently appointed the Deputy Supervisor of the Town of Brookhaven on Long Island.

Jon is a hard-working and dedicated public servant who has consistently demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the people of eastern Long Island. As one of my original staffers, I have enjoyed watching Jon develop and sharpen his communications and political skills.

Jon started as a press secretary when I opened my Washington office in 2003. He became a trusted advisor who helped shape and carry out my agenda. He was already an ex-

perienced congressional staffer with service as Congressman STEVE ROTHMAN's press secretary. Additionally, he brought energy and environment policy expertise to my staff as a former national political representative of the Sierra Club.

When Jon moved back home to Long Island, I was delighted to keep him on board my staff as the communications and district office director. As the leader of my office in Coram, New York, I have always been able to count on Jon's counsel to deliver effective constituent services.

Jon has also excelled at advocating key transportation and infrastructure projects on Long Island. He has helped me advocate important conservation initiatives, particularly the preservation of open spaces and biodiversity in Long Island Sound. He was also instrumental in helping me secure a federal study of the severely polluted Forge River in Mastic, New York.

Such important assignments involved working closely and almost daily with multiple levels of local elected representatives and maintaining important working relationships with government officials, civic groups and community advocacy organizations. As such, Jon proved to be an invaluable asset to my staff, both as a skilled professional and through his friendly, light-hearted nature.

Jon currently resides in Port Jefferson Station with his wife, Mary Ellen, their nearly five-month-old daughter, Eleanor, along with a notorious yet very talented pet tortoise named Boris. While I am saddened to see him leave my staff, I congratulate Jon on his appointment and will look forward to observing his continuing career in public service in the years ahead.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my staff and the people of the first congressional district of New York, I thank Jonathan M. Schneider for his hard work to improve the lives of eastern Long Island's residents. I wish him and his family continued success, good health and the best of luck for years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE REVEREND DR. CARL F. BROOKS

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor Dr. Carl F. Brooks for his commitment to service in his community and his church, First Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Punta Gorda, Florida. Dr. Brooks has employed his selfless vision to promote and provide resources that help people turn to God.

Sunday February 10, 2008 will mark the 28th anniversary of Dr. Brooks' service as Pastor of First Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. He began in 1980 when Punta Gorda was a small town on the southwest coast of Florida. As Punta Gorda grew, his vision and mission to serve expanded to provide human services and educational resources.

The Reverend Dr. Brooks is quoted as saying "The future is not something you enter, it is something you create. We will not continue with 'Business as Usual', we will be guided by an authentic vision through which the Kingdom's agenda is accomplished."

In his capacity as visionary and servant of Charlotte County, the Reverend Dr. Brooks has made his church part of the Emergency Shelter National Board Program by providing food and shelter to residents in times of disaster. He has worked tirelessly to create non-profit organizations that help children and families, promote educational opportunities for his congregation, and serves as a member of the National Baptist Convention of America in addition to being Florida's representative for the Board of Evangelism.

Dr. Brooks is the proud husband of Karen and the father of three daughters Tonya, Carla and Kayla.

I am proud to recognize Dr. Brooks for his great service to both Charlotte County and the First Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. Our community is truly blessed to have Dr. Brooks as a resident. I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to Dr. Brooks for his service to our community and our country.

HONORING MR. ED SIEGMANN

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of New York's first congressional district to mourn the passing of a beloved constituent and treasure of the Long Island community, Mr. Ed Siegmann.

Born in Ridgewood Queens, New York in 1919, Ed was an exemplary citizen who served honorably in the U.S. Army during World War II. Upon his return, Ed became a tireless advocate for the interests of seniors on Long Island, perhaps most effectively as the President of the Suffolk County United East End Senior's Council.

Frustrated by the lack of media coverage concerning health care and other challenges faced by seniors in Suffolk County, New York, Ed approached publishers with an idea to write about them himself. As a result, Ed's column in the Suffolk Life newspaper, "The Upper Half," was born in 2000. The following year, Ed had the distinction of being the only Long Island resident to be awarded the prestigious Beneficiary Services Certificate of Merit.

Ed's tireless work to promote economic and social justice for the elderly and disabled were boundless. He was the founder and vice president of Southold TaxPac; president of the Southold-Mattituck Senior Citizens Club; a member of Seniors Against Discrimination; and a member of Southold's Senior Housing Taskforce. He worked in these organizations to improve the lives of seniors by working to reduce taxes, and to promote affordable health care and moderately priced senior housing.

Indeed, Ed was a local hero who was a shining example of a concerned and active citizen who was among our community's most effective champions for the rights of the elderly. It is entirely appropriate that he is honored by the naming of the Ed Siegmann Community Room at the Southold Town Human Resources Center.

Madam Speaker, it was truly an honor to work with Ed and to call him a friend. On behalf of a grateful community, I thank Ed

Siegmann for his many enduring contributions to eastern Long Island, where he will always be missed but whose memory will be forever cherished.

HONORING THE 111TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 111th anniversary of the Washington Birthday Celebration Association (WBCA) in Laredo, Texas.

The Washington Birthday Celebration is a nearly month-long event held in Laredo, Texas. It is the largest celebration of its kind in the United States that honors the birthday of George Washington, the first President of the United States. The festival receives over 400,000 attendees, and consists of various celebrations including the Society of Martha Washington Colonial Pageant & Ball, Princess Pocahontas Pageant and Ball, parades, a carnival, an air show, and live concerts.

The WBCA was founded in 1898 by the patriotic Improved Order of the Red Men, Local Chapter Yaqui Tribe No. 59, whose members included prominent Laredoans of both Mexican and American ancestry. The first celebration was a great success, and its popularity grew when the Washington Birthday Celebration Association of Laredo, Inc., received its state charter in 1923. In the following year, in 1924, the Celebration featured its first Colonial Pageant, which showcased thirteen young women from Laredo, representing the thirteen original colonies. The International Bridge Ceremony is the welcoming ceremony between officials and dignitaries from Mexico and United States as a sign of international good will between the two nations.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the 111th anniversary of the Washington Birthday Celebration Association in Laredo, Texas.

HONORING MEMBERS OF EASTERN CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the heroic efforts of four members of eastern Connecticut's community: Robert Butler, John Roberts, and Shelly and Greg Erb. These individuals' selfless and quick, smart actions saved the lives of two kayakers from the frigid waters of the Noank River. On Friday, February 7, 2008, Robert Butler and John Roberts will be presented with a Meritorious Public Service Award by Rear Admiral Timothy Sullivan and Captain Dan Ronan. Shelly and Greg Erb will be presented with a Certificate of Merit.

On January 30, 2008, Shelly Erb was driving to her home in Noank, Connecticut, when

she spotted a stranded kayaker on the bank of the Noank River. Once home, she immediately notified her husband, Greg Erb who called 911 and the Noank Village Boatyard. Shelly and Greg's quick, decisive actions to notify both emergency responders and the Noank Village Boatyard would ultimately prove to save both kayakers' lives.

Employees of the Noank Village Boatyard, Robert Butler and John Roberts received the call from Mr. Erb. The waters were near freezing, and understanding that prolonged exposure posed serious life-threatening risks, the men immediately launched a boat to find the kayakers. Soon after, Robert and John were able to locate the kayakers, one of whom remained in the water, nearly unconscious. Robert and John rescued the kayaker from the water and helped both to a waiting ambulance. Both kayakers survived.

The events that unfolded on January 30 could have very possibly ended in tragedy. Instead, our community witnessed the very best of its neighbors. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing and saluting the heroic efforts of Robert Butler, John Roberts, and Shelly and Greg Erb.

HONORING FORT DAVIS, TEXAS ON BEING LISTED IN THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION'S 2008 DOZEN DISTINCT DESTINATIONS

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise here today to recognize the designation of Fort Davis, Texas, as one of the locations listed in the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2008 Dozen Distinct Destinations. Making it only the fourth locality ever in Texas to receive this distinction.

For the past eight years, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has produced an annual list of twelve communities throughout the United States that provide visitors with unique experiences that bring to life the richness and diversity of America's cultural and historical heritage. This year, the organization has recognized Fort Davis, Texas, one of the many historic communities in my congressional district, as a place of distinction because of its exceptional character and history.

From 1854 to 1891, troops stationed at the post protected emigrants, freighters, mail coaches, and travelers on the San Antonio-El Paso Road. Because Fort Davis is one of the best remaining examples of a frontier military post in the American Southwest, this community serves as a vivid reminder of the significant role played by the military in the settlement and development of the western frontier.

Through great effort and a true devotion, the residents of Fort Davis have worked hard to preserve its historic, cultural, and scenic uniqueness. Aside from undertaking important restoration projects, members of the community preserve Fort Davis' culture through reenactments of life during the 19th century on the western frontier. In so preserving its character and by protecting its serene landscape, visitors from all over can enjoy and learn about the history of Fort Davis in a truly realistic and dynamic environment that is sure to make an indelible impression.

I thank the National Trust for Historic Preservation for honoring Fort Davis this year, and I further extend my gratitude and congratulations to the community of Fort Davis for its dedication to preserving its historic fabric and spirit.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 31, H. Res. 943, remembering the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster and honoring its crew members, who lost their lives on January 28, 1986. I was absent due to inclement weather grounding flights from Wisconsin.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye".

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF PAUL J. ABBATE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the life and service of Paul J. Abbate, former Guam Superior Court Presiding Judge. Judge Abbate passed away on Saturday, February 2, 2008 in Pomfret, Maryland at the age of 88.

Judge Abbate served our Nation as a Commander in the U.S. Navy's Judge Advocate General Corps for over 20 years. Upon his retirement from the Navy, he accepted an appointment by Governor of Guam Manuel F.L. Guerrero to be the Attorney General of Guam. With the retirement of Presiding Judge Joaquin C. Perez in 1969, Governor Guerrero appointed Paul Abbate to serve as a Judge for the Superior Court of Guam, where he served for 19 years, 13 of which were as the Presiding Judge. As Presiding Judge, he initiated plans for the construction of the new Guam Judicial Center, the complex that today houses the Superior Court and Supreme Courts of Guam. Judge Abbate was noted for his well-reasoned rulings, but also for his fairness and impartiality in the court. Following his retirement from Guam's judicial system, he served as Director of Governor Joseph Washington Liaison Office in Washington, DC.

Judge Abbate's service to Guam was evident in more than just the courtroom. He committed his life to the Catholic Church as a deacon for the Archdiocese of Hagåtña and in his church in the mainland. He assisted in the major renovations and improvements to the Dulce Nombre de María Cathedral Basilica in Guam's capital of Hagåtña and helped in the preparations for the visit of Pope John Paul II on March 1, 1981.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend our sincere condolences and deepest sympathies to his son Michael S. Abbate and his wife Cindy, his daughter Maria T. Rossi and her husband, John, his six grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Judge Abbate will always be remembered by the people of Guam as a dedicated member of the legal commu-

nity and a devoted member of the Guam's Catholic community.

IN RESPONSE TO ATTACKS ON THE CONSTITUENTS OF THE 9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to discuss an unwarranted and downright hostile attack on my constituents and the people of Berkeley, CA by Republicans on the floor of the House earlier today. I'm here tonight, Mr. Speaker, to set the record straight and to respond to their false claims and distortions.

Madam Speaker, it never ceases to amaze me how some people will go to any length to score political points. That is what happened here on the House floor earlier today when several Republican members said they wanted to strip the people of Berkeley, CA of much-needed Federal funding.

Let us be clear: punishing the people of Berkeley for political gain is unfair and simply plain wrong. This is nothing more than grandstanding and posturing on behalf of Republicans who want to make a political point for their own benefit.

I want to begin by talking about the primary target of the Republican campaign against the people of Berkeley, and in this case, the children of Berkeley. Republicans claimed that one earmark was for the creation of organic school lunches in the Berkeley School District. This characterization of a school lunch initiative developed by the Chez Panisse Foundation is dishonest.

This school lunch initiative aims to revolutionize school lunch by treating lunch as an important part of the day, as well as integrating lessons about wellness, sustainability and nutrition into the academic curriculum.

The funding will aid in the development of a program that would treat lunch as an academic subject for all public school students in the district, from kindergarten through high school. These funds will support a comprehensive approach to improved health and health education in the public schools that will empower students with a sense of responsibility for themselves and their health. It's about nutrition for our children.

Next I want to talk about their efforts to attack the University of California and the memory of a great leader in this body, former Congressman Bob Matsui. This funding will be used for UC Berkeley's Institute of Government Studies for the creation of the Matsui Center for Politics and Public Service.

The Matsui Center will develop a curriculum that will encourage students to think about politics and public service not as separate activities, but as a continuum of civic engagement. As a great public university, Berkeley has a special obligation to train the next generation of leaders, as well as to help them develop the political and policy skills that will enable them to participate constructively in public life. The program will also have educational components in Sacramento and Washington, DC—capitol cities which were touchstones for Congressman Bob Matsui's long public service career. It's about education.

Now allow me to turn my attention to an item that the Republicans did not want to tell you about—funding for the disabled and the Ed Roberts Campus. This funding will be used for the construction of the Ed Roberts Campus at the Ashby BART Station in Berkeley. The Ed Roberts Campus is the vision of eight disability organizations in California which have joined forces to create a multi-tenant facility. The facility will serve as an intermodal transit center, as well as a transportation information and travel-training center for seniors and people with disabilities.

It will provide services in a fully accessible, technologically-advanced environment located at BART's Ashby stop. The campus will serve approximately 2,000 disabled people per week, most of whom will arrive by public transportation.

The Ed Roberts Campus is an innovative approach to transit oriented development and will be the first disability service center at a major fully-accessible transit hub. As a result, people throughout the region will have access to programs that will enable them to obtain needed health care education, job training and other services in order to achieve their life and work goals. It's about providing quality services for the disabled!

Finally, I want to mention another item that the Republican supporters of this measure will not mention—that their bill would intentionally undermine the safety and security of the people of Berkeley by denying critical funding for Berkeley public safety agencies' interoperability.

This particular funding will be used to update Berkeley's public safety computer dispatch and communications system to ensure systems interoperability. It will support critical inter-jurisdictional communications and coordination needs. This funding will help to enhance Berkeley's ability to maintain a secure and interoperable computer and communications system and maximize sustainable use after a natural or human made disaster. It's about public safety!

Madam Speaker, the statements by Republicans on the floor of the House earlier today were nothing but a shameful attack on my constituents in order to score perceived political points. It is just plain wrong and it is a real shame that it is happening on the floor of this House.

I have said it before and I will say it again, I will fight to defend the constituents of my district and their right to receive Federal funds.

ON THE LIFE OF VI STOIA

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, today I would like to offer a special remembrance for a unique individual, Vi Stoia. Viorel G. "Vi" Stoia was born in Aberdeen, South Dakota in 1924. He lived there all of his life, save for when he attended the University of Minnesota earning his degree in business administration, and when he served in the United States Navy from 1942 to 1946 as a Chief Petty Officer. Vi married Donna Marie Maurseth in 1949 and they made their home in Aberdeen, raising their five children—Marsha, Nancy, Greg, James and Thomas.

Vi served on countless boards, was a member of numerous civic associations, and was Aberdeen's resident historian, well-known and well-liked throughout the community. He learned everything he could about area projects and economic development issues, and maintained both a mental and physical archive of the town's history. If you had a question about something in Aberdeen's history, not only would Vi know the answer, he would most likely be able to produce a newspaper article about it. His clippings archives went back at least 60 years, if not more.

As a constant supporter of the Aberdeen community, Vi was involved in almost every opportunity for economic growth or quality-of-life improvement. He advocated for public projects as diverse as the Northeast Regional Health and Fitness Center, the Highway 12 Expressway and Moccasin Creek revitalization. When incentives for business recruitment and expansion were being sought, Vi was there to lead the charge.

Though he was a very successful businessman, as senior financial representative with Northwestern Mutual Life, and held many leadership positions within the insurance industry, it was his public service and influence within the community that will be remembered most.

I join the Aberdeen community, Vi's family, and friends, not in mourning his passing, but in celebrating his life and the innumerable contributions he made to the community of which he was so proud.

HOLT NURSING SCHOOL CAPACITY AMENDMENT TO COLLEGE OP- PORTUNITY AND AFFORD- ABILITY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, nurses are the backbone of our health care system. The shortage of nurses throughout our country leaves patients unattended, doctors stressed, and nurses exhausted from extra shifts. A principle reason for this shortage of nurses is the shortage of nursing school faculty. Because of the faculty shortage many schools of nursing are turning away good students who would make good nurses.

I am pleased that my amendment which attaches the Nursing School Capacity Act, H.R. 677, to the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007 (H.R. 4137) has been accepted in the bill passed in the House. I thank Representative WELCH and Representative CAPPS, one of the Co-Chairs of the House Nursing Caucus, for cosponsoring this amendment with me. H.R. 677, which has 76 cosponsors, directs the Institute of Medicine to study the constraints experienced by schools of nursing in admitting and graduating enough nurses to meet growing needs.

I appreciate that House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Miller accepted our amendment and incorporated it into his Manager's Amendment. Today's action shows that Congress understands the healthcare crisis facing states like New Jersey.

The study my amendment directs will explore the constraints that our nation's schools

of nursing face and propose short and long term solutions to address the nursing crisis. I look forward to reviewing the study's recommendations and working to implement them before the quality of care suffers.

Over the years, I have heard from many nursing professionals from New Jersey about the nursing crisis, particularly the inability of nursing schools to meet growing workforce demands. In fact, a study from the National League of Nursing states that in 2004, nursing schools were forced to turn down 147,000 qualified applicants due to a lack of faculty. That is why I first introduced the Nursing School Capacity Act three years ago, and why I am excited that it's close to becoming law today.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Nurses Association, the American Organization of Nurse Executives and the New Jersey Hospital Association all endorsed the legislation. I ask unanimous consent that their endorsement letters be included in the RECORD.

We have not solved the nursing crisis with today's action, but we have taken a step in better understanding the problem.

FEBRUARY 4, 2008.

Hon. RUSH HOLT,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HOLT: On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and the American Nurses Association, we would like to thank you for offering the language included in the Nursing School Capacity Act of 2007 (H.R. 677) as an amendment to the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007 (H.R. 4137).

Over the past decade, the inability to increase the supply of nurses has become more apparent as the challenges faced by nursing education programs have intensified. These challenges force schools of nursing to turn away thousands of qualified applicants each year. According to a 2006 AACN report, U.S. nursing schools turned away 42,866 qualified applicants due to an insufficient number of faculty, clinical sites, classroom space, clinical preceptors, and budget constraints. Almost three quarters of the nursing schools responding to AACN's survey pointed to faculty shortages as a primary reason for not accepting all qualified applicants into nursing programs. A Special Survey on Vacant Faculty Positions released by AACN in July 2007, reported a total of 767 faculty vacancies (8.8 percent vacancy rate) identified at 329 nursing schools with baccalaureate and/or graduate programs across the country.

Clearly, the obstacles faced by schools of nursing in attempting to increase enrollment and graduations are vastly complex and warrant further investigation. Your bill will facilitate the discussion of these constraints and help explore solutions to overcome the barriers that are preventing potential students from entering the nursing profession. In addition, your bill calls for recommendations to be made by the Institute of Medicine which will serve as a valuable resource for policy-makers as well as the health, industry, and education systems.

AACN and ANA sincerely appreciate your willingness to thoroughly investigate the nursing and nurse faculty shortage through the Nursing School Capacity Act.

Sincerely,

American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

American Nurses Association.

AMERICAN ORGANIZATION OF
NURSE EXECUTIVES,

Washington, DC, February 4, 2008.

Hon. RUSH HOLT,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HOLT: On behalf of the over 6000 members of the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) representing nurses in all facets of executive practice, we would like to express our strong support for the amendment that you and Representative Welch are prepared to offer to H.R. 4147 the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007. The amendment incorporates the language of your bill H.R. 677, the Nursing School Capacity Act into a more comprehensive piece of legislation and would provide the nursing and health care communities with important research into the underlying causes of the nursing shortage.

The majority of AONE's membership of registered professional nurses are leaders in the day-to-day management and delivery of direct patient care services. In this position, we have been able to see first hand the impacts of the worsening nursing shortage and applaud your efforts to address this critical situation through the provision of study to be conducted by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. Understanding that the nursing shortage is the result of the convergence of a number of factors, your proposed legislation would identify the constraints encountered by schools of nursing in admitting and graduating the number of registered nurses to ensure patient safety but it would also propose recommendations to alleviate the constraints on a short-term and long-term basis.

AONE has been in the forefront of attempts to deal with the nursing shortage and welcomes the opportunity to participate in the proposed study as a consultant in partnership with the other relevant organizations named in your legislation. AONE has focused on the work environment and the educational preparation of the nurse of the future. We see our past and current work as integral to the study you have proposed. Your legislation provides a comprehensive approach to identifying and quantifying the factors that have contributed to the shortage such as regulatory barriers, educational preparation, salary and benefit structures, and characteristics of the workplace.

AONE applauds your efforts and those of Mr. Welch to include this needed legislation as an amendment to H.R. 4147 the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007.

Sincerely,

CAROL A. WATSON,
President.

PAMELA A. THOMPSON,
Chief Executive Officer.

NEW JERSEY HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION,
Princeton, NJ, February 4, 2008.

Hon. RUSH HOLT,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HOLT: On behalf of our 119 member hospitals and their systems, I am writing to express our strong support for the Holt/Welch Amendment to H.R. 3147, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007 that would incorporate your bill, H.R. 667, the Nursing School Capacity Act of 2007.

We have all known for too long that we have an ongoing shortage of nurses in this country, and although we have seen a recent increase in nursing candidates, we cannot keep pace with the demands to educate new nurses. One of the major issues is the inability to expand upon our nursing educational programs in this country. Within the past year 125,000 qualified potential nursing students have been placed on waiting lists, and

almost 2,000 are on waiting lists in New Jersey. These numbers will continue to increase unless we implement sound planning strategies to build a stronger infrastructure for nursing education.

The issue of faculty supply and demand is very complex and affects every nursing program very differently. It is for this reason that there is a need to conduct a national

study of all of these issues so that well formulated recommendations can address the needs of each level of nursing education.

H.R. 667 will charge the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences to undertake this study and identify constraints encountered by schools of nursing in admitting and graduating the number of

nurses sufficient to meet the healthcare needs of the United States.

I commend your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you in getting this bill signed into law.

Sincerely,

GARY S. CARTER,
President & CEO.